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FOCUS

BLACKS AND REGIONALISM
THE EXPERIENCE AND THE OUTLOOK

Joint Center for Political Studies

Perspective

Last month OPERATION BIG VOTE launched its "Spring Offensive." Using war talk, namely "Spring Offensive," to characterize nonpartisan efforts to increase black voter participation may sound strange to some. However, when you consider the nature of the problems we face in this election year, anything short of a declaration of war against our own political apathy and short of a massive mobilization of our political troops would be tantamount to surrender.

Our problems are easily portrayed in war terms. Our economic situation is deteriorating. It's getting harder and harder to hold on to past gains. Some white allies, or former allies, are retreating on the affirmative action front. The national paranoia about balancing the federal budget has caused a strategic withdrawal of support from many programs vital to our well being.

Under these circumstances, it should be clear that we are indeed in a battle for survival. The ballot is one important weapon in our arsenal. We have about 17 million potential voters. However, only those who are registered can fight for our cause on election day.

No matter who the presidential candidates are, this election promises to be a very close one in which a massive black vote could be the deciding factor. No matter which presidential candidate is elected, the problems confronting black America will not vanish overnight, and so we must be prepared to continue our political pressures. And last, but not least, the congressional elections, as much as the presidential race, if not moreso, will determine, in large part, whether and how our problems are addressed.

These are compelling reasons for increasing black voter registration and turnout this year. Because the stakes are so high for us, it would be genocidal to stay in the slump of political apathy, indifference, and ignorance. Our interests are not served by paroting the prevailing view that all the candidates are bad; that we don't have a choice; and that the best way to protest all this is to stay at home on election day. To this garbage, I say, hogwash! Somebody is going to be elected whether we sit on our hands or get out and vote. The only question is whether it is the person we want or the one somebody else wants.

Too many of us read that there is a general decline in voter participation and conclude, rather self-righteously, that our own non-participation is justified. But this is a deception. While voter turnout has declined in recent years, the amount of political influence being exerted by certain segments of our society has actually increased. By their votes and through other politically relevant actions, such as lobbying and contributing to political campaigns, they are speaking for us, sometimes against our interests.

One recent study concluded that the decline in voting "has been concentrated very disproportionately in those sectors of the electorate where one finds most disinterest and lack of a sense of obligation to participate, leaving the burden of voting more and more heavily in the hands of those who are interested in the electoral process."

In other words, the non-voters are mainly those who are most deprived and who could have the most to gain from the political system: minorities, low income persons, and young adults. To the extent their votes are not felt and their voices are not heard, there is created a political power vacuum which other interests rush to fill.

Apathy, indifference and ignorance lead to an enormous waste of our political potential. Elections are still the primary way of achieving popular goals. The ballot does not always guarantee improvement, but it does create opportunities for change.

This is why OPERATION BIG VOTE will launch offensive after offensive to mobilize black voters for an invasion of the ballot boxes on November 4.

Eddie N. Williams
President

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National Consumer Cooperative Bank

In minority communities nowadays commercial banks are very much in the news, either because they redline or have high interest rates, or provide the necessary funds to keep citizens and businesses from landing between a rock and a hard place. Yet, many minority communities have heard very little about another kind of bank, the National Consumer Cooperative Bank (NCCB).

In these times of escalating costs for food, housing, energy, and health care, minorities should take special interest in establishing banking cooperatives and in owning and operating the National Consumer Bank.

NCCB is a major new national source of credit, created under Public Law 95-351, which provides financial and technical assistance to consumer cooperatives.

A consumer cooperative is a business owned by its customers. It provides goods and services for them on a not-for-profit basis. Each member of a cooperative has one vote in the operation and management of the group. Any profits from the operation of the cooperative are returned to members in the form of patronage refunds and discounts.

The NCCB consists of a Bank and an Office of Self-Help Development and Technical Assistance.

The Bank makes loans to eligible cooperatives at prevailing interest rates. Initially the Federal government (U.S. Treasury) will provide the capital for these loans through investments of up to $300 million in the Bank over five years. The Bank may also borrow up to ten times this amount, or $3 billion, from other capital sources.

The Office of Self-Help Development and Technical Assistance will provide capital advances and technical assistance to cooperatives that are just forming or that serve or include low income members. For the first three years of operation (1978-1981) the Office of Self-Help Development is authorized to receive up to $75 million from the U.S. Treasury. The Office will make available information and services concerning the organization, financing and management of cooperatives. One of the important functions of the Technical Assistance arm of the Office will be to act as a source of information regarding existing funding and technical assistance programs available through government agencies and other organizations.

Borrowing Eligibility

Consumer cooperatives are eligible to borrow money from the NCCB if they are chartered or operated on a cooperative, not-for-profit basis; produce or supply goods, services or facilities for the benefit of their members as consumers; have a voluntary, open membership policy; and observe one member, one vote principles.

The Board of Directors of NCCB determines the loan policies and the direction of the Bank. Members are initially appointed for three-year terms by the President. Nominees for the Board are chosen from the government and private sector. Seven of the 15 members represent the public sector. The remaining members are chosen from within government.

The President will continue to appoint persons to the Board until the cooperatives buy a proportion of the government sponsored stock, whereupon, they will then be able to elect new Board members. Until such a purchase is made, all appointments will be made by the President and confirmed by the Congress.

Cooperative organizations have existed in the United States for a long time. In the 1930's Congress passed legislation providing financial assistance to agricultural cooperatives, the primary cooperatives at that time. In 1978, Congress enlarged the cooperative outreach. It was through this legislation that the National Consumer Cooperative Bank was created.

Through cooperative ventures, the cost of goods to the consumer from the producer is minimized. There are many different kinds of cooperatives in existence today, in such diverse areas as food, housing, banks, credit associations (unions), oil, steel, fishing, telephone, aerospace, electric, drugs, opticals, hardware, iron and coal mining, arts and crafts, automobile, bicycle repair and furniture manufacturing.

Funding for Low-Income Co-ops

Loans to 12 cooperatives totalling $8.6 million were awarded on April 7 and April 22 this year. Of the total, $1.2 million will go to low income cooperatives.

Although the Bank has approved the loans, the money will not be administered until the borrowing cooperatives meet certain requirements. A common requirement, according to the Bank, is that the cooperatives increase membership and involvement in low income communities.

FOCUS urges its readers to help the Joint Center identify minority cooperatives which should be informed of the new opportunities for funding.

For information about NCCB contact: Pru Pemberton, National Consumer Cooperative Bank, 2001 S Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, or call toll free: 800-424-2481.

Blacks & Regionalism: The Experience & Outlook

by Dr. Milton Morris

(Dr. Morris is the Director of Research at the Joint Center for Political Studies).

Regionalism has emerged as a major feature of local governments. The idea of regionalism has been around for over half a century, but it began to gain widespread acceptance in the late 1950's. By 1970, it had become a prominent part of the political landscape.

The term "regionalism" covers a wide variety of arrangements for collaboration among units of local governments within a specific geographic area, to solve the problems that they share. Such arrangements may involve local governments working together to provide specific services such as transportation or sanitation for their combined areas; or, it may involve creation of a strong, unified regional body with comprehensive areawide responsibilities. In any case, regionalism involves significant changes in governmental structures and in the distribution and exercise of political power at the local level. Such changes understandably evoke special interest and concern among blacks who have only recently become fully active political participants.

In 1972, the Joint Center for Political Studies, in cooperation with the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, conducted a survey of black elected officials to determine how they viewed regionalism. The Joint Center also examined separately a few cases in which the black population of a locality faced and dealt with proposals that the locality participate in a new regional governmental arrangement. These studies revealed that black public officials and even moreso, black community leaders, were not very well informed about regionalism and that, to the extent that they were informed, they were ambivalent about it. Many respondents noted the potential benefits of structured regional cooperation for local governments, and specifically for the minority population. However, they also exhibited a number of concerns.

One source of concern among black public officials was that regionalism would seriously dilute black political strength. Although blacks have been heavily concentrated in cities for a long time, during the past two decades the growth of the black population as a percentage of the total popu'ation of several cities has been especially rapid. Blacks have become the majority in at least four major cities and exceed 40 percent in several others. Thus, for the first time, blacks have gained control of government in some of these cities and appear likely to do so in several others within the next decade. Because white voters still tend to be very reluctant to support black candidates, the size of the black population in these cities is vital to maintaining black political power. Blacks expressed considerable concern that, as they move from their political base in central cities toward extensive participation in regional governmental structures, their political clout might be substantially reduced in relation to that of the white majority within the region.

This concern is probably strongest in localities with black majorities, but it is also strong in localities where blacks are a minority but constitute a substantial political force.

A second prominent concern of blacks, borne out by the study, was that the major issues with which regional organizations are concerned are not among those of special concern to blacks. Many viewed regionalism as primarily a process by which white suburbs would exert areawide control and obtain the services and facilities needed for continued suburban growth, often at the expense of black central cities. This concern was heightened by the lack of substantial black participation on regional bodies. They are especially pronounced when localities with black majorities are faced with the need for substantially expanded regional cooperation with traditionally hostile, largely all white suburban jurisdictions.

Undoubtedly, these fears continue to exist. However, a cursory review of the experience of blacks with regionalism indicates that many of their worst fears have not been realized. Black political power does not appear to have been eroded by regionalism, especially in those localities where blacks control the central city. On the contrary, blacks are becoming increasingly prominent and influential actors in the still evolving regional governmental structures. Moreover, to a growing number of now experienced black public officials, regionalism appears to provide an increasingly important means by which localities can attempt to respond to the vital needs of blacks and other disadvantaged groups in the localities they govern. Viewed in this way, regionalism is part of a widening local arena in which blacks must operate if they are to be effective in addressing the needs of their localities.

Regionalism in its various forms is one of several recent efforts by policymakers at all levels of government to cope with some of the troubling governance problems confronting the society. State and local governments face an increasing array of challenges in effectively, equitably, and economically meeting the needs of their residents. Central to these challenges are the rapidly increasing level and variety of demands being made by an increasingly politicized society on one hand, and the diminishing resources available to localities for satisfying these demands, on the other. Closely related to these developments is the fact that America's multiplicity of governmental units makes some forms of problem-solving and service delivery extremely difficu't, if not impossible. The process of suburbanization over the past three decades and the accompanying uneveness in the distribution of resources among units of local government and especially between many central cities and their suburbs have helped to further complicate the problems of governance.

The gap between demand and resources is evident in most of the larger, older, central cities and

especially so in those cities in which blacks have recently come to power or appear on the verge of doing so. Several analysts and some public officia's point to the specter of minorities presiding over non-viable shells of former cities as resources disappear and demands skyrocket. The continuing fiscal crises being experienced by cities like Detroit, Philadelphia, Newark, New York, and Washington, D.C. illustrate the need for substantial new resources and for governmental arrangements that will permit the most efficient use of existing resources. Vital functions such as transportation, health care, recreation, and sanitation increasingly require joint efforts by several jurisdictions in order to provide an acceptable level and quality of service. Even if these services could be efficiently provided within the political boundaries of each locality, they are now beyond the resources of most single jurisdictions, especially those experiencing severe fiscal pressures. Thus, separate local public transportation systems are everywhere giving way to metropolitan area-wide systems to which each participating locality contributes. The same is true for most of the other services mentioned.

Not surprisingly, regional organizations have been growing in number. According to a study by the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, sub-state regional governmental bodies increased in number from 488 in 40 states in 1972 to a total of 530 by 1977. No major metropolitan areas were without regional planning or decision-making bodies by 1977. Moreover, most of those in existence appear to have strengthened their position within the region they serve.

The increasing prominence of regionalism reflects not only local needs and pressures, but a now firmly established federal government commitment, as well. At least 32 major federal aid programs for localities now mandate some form of regional planning, information sharing, or some kind of collaboration. With this strong and growing federal involvement in regionalism have come demands on localities for planning and service delivery on a nondiscriminatory basis. For example, the requirement that applications by local governments for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) include housing assistance plans that reflect regional housing characteristics and needs, and that such plans be reviewed and commented on by designated areawide planning agencies, illustrates this trend. As a result of such requirements, many jurisdictions which once ignored the need for low-income housing are now obligated to take steps to provide such housing as a condition for participating in federal grant programs. Extensive federal involvement in regional governments, therefore, can be expected gradually to undermine some of the racially discriminatory policies and practices of many suburban jurisdictions.

The increased fiscal pressures on many localities and the demands of the federal government together ensure that regionalism will remain a vital part of the structure of local government. Among the lessons to be learned from the black experience with regionalism to date is that although it sti'l holds risks for blacks in some settings, benefits are several and cannot be overlooked. With informed and timely black involvement, it can address constructively several of the governance problems faced by localities across the country, especially those in large central cities where blacks are just obtaining the reins of power. Therefore, the challenge for blacks throughout the country, who are still grappling with this emerging phenomenon, is to find ways to minimize their political losses and maximize their gains from involvement in regional governments. To accomplish this, blacks must become more attentive to and knowledgeable about regionalism, its potential, and its limitations, and they must seek the widest possible participation in all phases of regional decision-making. The extent and manner of this involvement clearly will differ with local circumstances such as the existing pattern of race relations, the distribution of the black population, and the kinds of resources the black community has at its disposal.

A second important step for blacks in dealing with the pressures for regionalism is to carefully identify and rank the current and emerging needs of their localities. A clear recognition of these needs is essential to the complex long-term planning that is required in undertaking major regional cooperation. Moreover, such an undertaking is crucial to the trade-offs that are likely to be part of the dynamics of regional politics.

Finally, in those areas where a regional structure is still an open issue, blacks need to identify and work for adoption of a regional model that appears most appropriate for their locality. As noted earlier, regionalism embraces a variety of structural arrangements ranging from a few special-purpose regional or areawide bodies all the way to a unified regional government. It is possible to choose and promote the model that promises to meet areawide needs effectively without seriously undermining the local political influence of blacks or sacrificing their vital interests.

To summarize, regionalism is an unavoidable part of the future of local government. Blacks need to welcome the benefits it provides, especially those involving the more equitable allocation of resources at the local level and the more effective utilization of the chaos, duplication, and waste that occur in the absence of regional coordination and/or collaboration in some service delivery. Regionalism, however, invariably means some redistribution of power. Blacks cannot risk sitting back in opposition or indifference while others shape the regional apparatus. Full and continuing involvement in planning and managing regional cooperation can minimize any power loss and can determine what kinds of issues receive attention and how.

Whether regionalism enhances the quality of government and the quality of life for us all or merely becomes a tool for the benefit of some segments of the society, will depend to a very great extent on how much we are willing to invest.

The Urban Initiatives Anti-Crime Program

(Editor's note: During the past six months, the Joint Center has been administering a program of technical assistance to the 39 Public Housing Authorities (PHA's) involved in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Urban Initiatives Anti-Crime Program. The role of the Joint Center and five subcontractors, who are technical experts in anti-crime, has been to review each PHA proposal to assure that it is consistent with HUD's objectives of providing safe environments and of involving tenants and community agencies in planning and implementing anti-crime programs).

The actual incidence of crime notwithstanding, almost all polls show that fear of crime ranks with inflation as one of the top concerns of Americans today. Furthermore, fear of crime has become the number one concern of residents in assisted housing, ranking ahead of concern for providing basic necessities such as food, clothing, employment and health. A recent Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) study shows that public housing tenants feel that the quality of their lives is most affected by their fear of crime.

In what may be a program model for the 1980's, the Urban Initiatives Anti-Crime Program is designed to reduce crime in public housing through working partnerships between tenants and housing management, community and police, the public and private sectors and federal agencies.

The $41 million anti-crime program is part of the Carter Administration's National Urban Policy, which was mandated by Congress through the 1978 Public Housing Security Demonstration Act.

The 39 Public Housing Authorities (PHA's) were selected to participate in the Urban Initiatives Anti-Crime Program in a competitive process involving over 170 PHA's nationwide.

The target PHA's are generally characterized by low-income populations, high unemployment rates, high percentages of people receiving Aid for Dependent Children, high percentages of female-headed single parent households, and high percentages of youth and the elderly.

Each participating PHA is implementing anti-crime programs in several basic areas. These include: improved management of public safety; rehabilitated facilities to house anti-crime activities and better physical security design; increased involvement of tenants in fighting crime; more employment of youths who commit much of the crime; improved anti-crime services for elderly residents, drug abusers, youth, and victims; additional and more sensitive police and law enforcement; and area-wide public/private partnerships targeted to public housing cites and surrounding neighborhoods.

In comparing the crime rates in selected public housing projects to those in the rest of the city, the table below shows that the public housing crime

(See Anti-Crime, Page 8)

TABLE 1

COMPARISON OF CRIME VICTIMIZATION RATES IN PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS AND OVERALL LOCAL JURISDICTIONS IN WHICH THEY ARE LOCATED[1]

(Rates per 1000 Population Aged 12 and Older)

PLACE	BOSTON		DADE COUNTY		DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA		BALTIMORE		LOS ANGELES	
CRIME	Four Housing Projects	City-Wide	Housing Project: Scott/ Carver Homes	County-Wide[5]	Housing Project: Capper Dwellings	City-Wide	Housing Project: Murphy Homes	City-Wide	Housing Project: Nickerson Gardens	City-Wide
ROBBERY	56	31	47	10	48	17	114	35	50	16
PURSE SNATCHING[2]	NA[6]	5	NA	.2	11	5	36	9	28	NA
ASSAULT	23	35	35	12	16	13	33	41	50	27
SEXUAL ASSAULT[3]	5	2	5	1	8	1	18	2	3	2
BURGLARY[4]	NA	149	NA	85	500	75	593	118	610	149
LARCENY (HOUSEHOLD)	159	93	278	66	101	51	7	124	525	145

TABLE 1: NOTES

1. The victimization rates for Public Housing Projects are based on data collected over different periods of time at different sites from 1974 through 1976. See William Brill Associates, (1976a), (1977b) and (1976c). The city-wide victimization rates are for the year 1974 and are taken from U.S. Department of Justice, (1975a), (1975b) and (1976).
2. These are the successful incidents only.
3. The sexual assault category includes rape and attempted rape.
4. The burglary category includes both successful and attempted burglary.
5. The Dade County Project is compared with the City of Miami because comparable county victimization data are unavailable.
6. "NA" indicates that data are unavailable.

Note: The above Table is taken from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's First Annual Report to Congress on the Carter Administration's Urban Initiatives Anti-Crime Program.

Telescope

Taking Count of the Congressional Black Caucus; Diggs Resigns

The Congressional Black Caucus will lose two of its members this year, one of whom was the founding member. However, the Caucus stands to gain three or more new members.

Rep. Charles C. Diggs (D-Mich.), founder of the Congressional Black Caucus, resigned on June 3, 1980, ending a congressional career of nearly 26 years. Diggs represented the 13th congressional district of Detroit.

Diggs' resignation came the day after the U.S. Supreme Court decided not to review his case, in which he was convicted of fraud and payroll padding.

Throughout his political career as a state senator (1951 to 1954) and as a Congressman, Diggs experienced many "firsts." In 1954, at the age of 32, he became the first black member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Michigan, and later became the highest ranking member of the Michigan Democratic delegation.

In 1959, he became the first black to serve on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and became the first black chairperson of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa in 1970. In this capacity, Diggs shepherded through the House, legis'ation that served to enlighten U.S. policy towards African nations.

In 1973 Diggs became the first black chairman of the House Committee on the District of Columbia. He was instrumental in piloting through the Congress the Home Rule Bill, which for the first time in over 100 years returned elected government to the District of Columbia. He was also successful in gathering support to establish the University of the District of Columbia.

As a senior black Congressperson, Diggs saw the need for organized black congressional clout, and in 1969 he organized the Congressional Black Caucus and became it's first chairperson.

A special primary has been scheduled for August 5, 1980, to elect a successor to Diggs. The winners of the primary will then run in the general election in November. As of this printing, 11 Democrats and seven Republicans, all black, have filed their candidacies.

Rep. Bennett Stewart (D-Ill.), a newcomer to the Caucus, lost his reelection bid in the March Illinois primary.

Stewart was nominated as the Democratic Party regular in 1978 to fill the seat left by Congressman Ralph Metcalfe who died several weeks before the general election. He will be replaced by Harold Washington, a 57-year-old black Democrat who will now represent the primarily all black first district of Chicago. Washington has served as a state legislator since 1965. In 1977, he ran, unsuccessfully, for the mayor of Chicago.

Gus Savage, a long time political activist and newspaper publisher, was also a winner in the Illinois primary. Savage ran as an independent and won the Democratic nomination in Chicago's 2nd congressional district. He unseated incumbent Congressman Morgan F. Murphy, who is white.

Mervyn Dymally, the former Lieutenant Governor of California, triumphed over incumbent Congressman Charles Wilson in the June 3 California Democratic primary. Dymally will face a Republican opponent in November for the 31st congressional district seat in Los Angeles.

Black Republican Everett T. Jennings, a 42-year-old engineer from East Orange, N.J., will face incumbent Democratic Congressman Peter Rodino, Jr. in November.

Rodino, 70, a veteran of 32 years in the House and chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, won the June 3 Democratic primary over three black contenders, to represent the heavily black-Hispanic 10th congressional district. The district has traditionally voted Democratic.

The August FOCUS will feature an analysis of all primaries in which blacks have run for Congress.

Black Colleges Narrowly Miss Cuts in Funding

With the passage of the Higher Education Act in 1965, traditionally black colleges gained significant benefits from the billions of dollars which were allocated through Title III. However, many of these benefits were being threatened by S. 1839, the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee's reauthorization bill.

The United Negro College Fund, Inc. (UNCF) charged that the funding formula in the proposed Title III would reduce funds to black colleges by almost 80 percent and would potentially extend Title III eligibility to financially advantaged institutions of higher education which do not serve poor and minority students.

Senator Donald Stewart (D-Ala.) offered an amendment to S. 1839 which will provide for the continuation of financial aid to black colleges at a level more acceptable than the provisions in the Senate Committee's bill. The amendment passed the Senate and the bill is now in a House-Senate conference committee.

Income Gap Widens Between City-Suburb

The income gap between central city residents and suburbanites has widened, according to a recent report by the Census Bureau.

The study, which covers 1970 to 1978, shows that the median income of central city families dropped from 83 percent of suburban family income in 1970, to 79 percent in 1978. The study also shows that although the median income of city families actually rose 57 percent during the eight-year span, the income value decreased because of price increases and the loss of purchasing power.

House Passes Fair Housing Amendment

By a vote of 310-95, the House of Representatives passed the Fair Housing Amendment Act of 1980 (H.R. 5200) on June 12. It is the first major piece of civil rights legislation the House has passed in 12 years.

Although the voting margin was sizeable in the final analysis, the bill survived, by only one vote, an earlier motion to kill its enforcement power.

(Continued on Page 8)

Telescope

The new bill would make major changes in the 1968 Fair Housing Act; giving the government more enforcement power to crack down on housing discrimination.

The Senate's companion bill (S. 506) was approved unanimously by the Senate Constitution Subcommittee on June 12. It now awaits a vote by the Senate Judiciary Committee before going to the full Senate.

Mitchell Blasts Administration's Economic Policies

Congressman Parren J. Mitchell (D-Md.) recently charged that the Congress and the Carter Administration have developed an economic policy which deliberately targets unemployment to the black community.

Mitchell's charges stem from testimony given by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics before the House Joint Economic Committee, which revealed that while the white unemployment rate rose only slightly since April, from 6.2 percent to 6.9 percent, the black unemployment rate rose from an already high of 12.6 percent to 13.9 percent. The testimony also revealed that unemployment of black teenagers rose to 35.2 percent; more than 5.4 percentage points above the April rate.

Mitchell, a member of the House Joint Economic Committee, said, "The craze for a ba'anced budget and tight monetary policy is promotional economics void of all consideration that the budget will be balanced at the expense of marginal urban workers; the elderly, the poor, and those on fixed incomes who will receive reductions in services; and Blacks and Hispanics who are victimized by the last hired-first fired syndrome."

He said it is time to re-evaluate the economic principles of the country.

Grants Available for Rural Housing Projects

The Community Services Administration (CSA) is accepting proposals for projects which will help the poor in rural areas obtain decent housing. CSA will fund up to 20 state grants and one national grant. Applications will be accepted until July 30, 1980. For more information, contact Larry Couch, Community Services Administration, 1200-19th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506 or call: (202) 254-6390.

ANTI-CRIME . . .

(Continued from Page 6)

rates are substantially higher. These figures are based on actual interviews with citizens in Boston, Mass.; Dade County, Fla.; Washington, D.C.; Baltimore, Md.; and Los Angeles, Calif., who were asked if, and how often, they were victimized.

In Baltimore, estimated robbery victimization rates were three times as high in the selected housing project as they were in the city as a whole. They were almost twice as high in Boston; almost five times as high in Dade County; almost three times as high in the District of Columbia; and over three times as high in Los Angeles.

While these figures are only estimates, even the most cautious reading of them suggests that for the cities and housing developments included in the table, crime tends to be higher in public housing projects than in other neighborhoods. As the unemployment rate continues to rise (from 5.8 percent to 7.0 percent in the past six months) and the level of funding for federal crime prevention programs continues to dwindle, the Urban Initiatives Anti-Crime Program may be one of the few major federal anti-crime efforts targeted to depressed, inner-city areas.

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