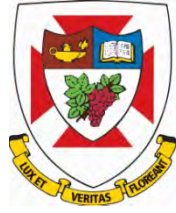


Process Report of Stage II: The People's Committee for a Better Neighbourhood Inc.

**by Wally Kubiski
1971**

The Institute of Urban Studies





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PROCESS REPORT OF STAGE II: THE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE FOR A BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD INC.

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The Institute of Urban Studies is an independent research arm of the University of Winnipeg. Since 1969, the IUS has been both an academic and an applied research centre, committed to examining urban development issues in a broad, non-partisan manner. The Institute examines inner city, environmental, Aboriginal and community development issues. In addition to its ongoing involvement in research, IUS brings in visiting scholars, hosts workshops, seminars and conferences, and acts in partnership with other organizations in the community to effect positive change.

PROCESS REPORT

OF STAGE II

THE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE FOR A
BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD INC.

by

Wally Kubiski
Research Associate

Institute of Urban Studies
University of Winnipeg

October 13, 1971

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is not to compile a complete history of the processes that have taken place between the People's Committee, and the Institute of Urban Studies (IUS), rather it is to look at these processes which have been operating from January 1, 1971 to the present date, October 13, 1971.¹

This report is the assessment of the Research Associate who takes the responsibility for the overall strategy to develop a community development program for Urban Renewal Area #2.

In the working out of this report there were 5 areas which were covered:

- (1) The People's Committee (past-present-future)
- (2) The tenants of 610 Ross
- (3) The external community surrounding 610 Ross
- (4) The limitations of staff and financial resources
- (5) A critical path for the total development of Urban Renewal Area #2

The raw data was collected from 4 sources:

- (1) The People's Committee for a Better Neighbourhood Inc.
- (2) The tenants of 610 Ross
- (3) The surrounding external community around 610 Ross
- (4) The field staff of the Urban Renewal Area #2 Project

The data was collected by interviewing the respective target community, the People's Committee, and the IUS staff -- a total of 45 people were interviewed in four days. These interviews were tape recorded, and it was agreed that the interviews would be assessed by the Research Associate.

¹See the Roosevelt Park Project Short Form Evaluation, by Ralph R. Kuropatwa.

The tape recorded interviews were to be destroyed. Also the People's Committee would have access to the report, for their rebuttal or discussion.

THE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE FOR A BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD, INC.

The People's Committee moved in several directions after the successful opening of its apartment block on December 10, 1971.

1. The Board of Directors worked over Christmas and into January on finishing the two important aspects of the block - the financial and the selection of tenants.
2. Personal conflicts within the Board of Directors and within the group led to delays, long meetings, physical and verbal intimidation, and a negative attitude within various members of the group.
3. The relevant issues within the area were discussed and analyzed with a view to answering the question of what to focus on next; it was finally decided in early March that the proposed Kin Park would be a suitable issue since it involved the flexible use of land and the issue of resident decision-making to planning.

The pressures that had built up within the group because of the delays, the necessity of finishing off one project before embarking on other major ones, the general lack of response in the area and the uncertainty as to funding the Kin Park issue, culminated in a series of meetings in March and April during which the Board of Directors was in effect re-elected, a number of newer members withdrew from the People's Committee, and the Institute of Urban Studies withdrew full-time support and offered instead its services as a resource to the Committee. (See later insertion for more detailed discussion of the withdrawal of IUS).

During the months of April, May and June, the various threads of the People's Committee unravelled:

1. The People's Committee without full-time support dealt with its major conflicts, at the expense of the loss of certain members.
2. The uncertainty as to funding from C.M.H.C. created problems within the People's Committee and within IUS as to future directions in Urban Renewal.
3. The City of Winnipeg's Urban Renewal Committee began to treat the People's Committee with much greater respect because of its action on Kin Park.
4. The needs of the members who had withdrawn from the People's Committee were generally not being met - some members switched to the Citizen's Steering Committee and became active during its time of strengthening its membership, while others simply became inactive.

Once the People's Committee was able to deal with its conflicts, it was able to go back to some of the members who had withdrawn and have them come back to the meetings, until the meetings are back to the strength of the Committee of a year ago, and the meetings are more efficiently run. Meanwhile the Institute was reassessing its role in the Urban Renewal Area taking into account its changed relationship with the People's Committee.

The perceptions of the chairman of the People's Committee are most important to an understanding of the process.

The chairman of the People's Committee was elected formally by the People's Committee (March 1971).

She has been involved in the urban renewal area #2 for the past 16 years. Her involvement has been "for improving the living conditions of the people of the area." She had presented with other people in this area many briefs and submissions to local municipal authorities for many years, but they have not been able to get the support that they required. She is well known by many people in the target area as a full-time volunteer worker.

She became involved at the inception of the IUS entry into the Urban Renewal Area #2. First at a meeting at the St. Andrew's Church then subsequently at the larger meeting that was called by the IUS to present the results of their findings from a study that was conducted in the area. At this meeting she was asked by a number of local citizens to become a member of the steering committee which was to become the People's Committee for a Better Neighbourhood Inc., as a non-profit corporation.

One of their first tasks, according to the chairman, was to inform more people about the work of the "People's Committee". Her statement was that the People's Committee, "was interested in everything from the cradle to the grave".

One of the tools that was used as an extension of the community development process was the use of VTR to communicate to other groups of people in the area their ideas about redevelopment and to get feedback from this process. She indicated that "she felt that it was a very effective tool but that it will become more effective in the future".

Another question to the chairman was what she considered to be the most significant changes from the day of the first meeting of the People's Committee to the present day.

She stated that there was a definite change in the attitude of the people in the area. She felt that "People now feel there is hope". "Before this at several meetings at city council the people felt that it was a waste of time". But they now have a deeper feeling that their area in which they live will change, because the People's Committee did accomplish one brief task. It was their first attempt to have good housing prevented from being destroyed. They had worked on the problem of moving an apartment block from Sherbrook and Notre Dame to Ross Avenue. "This apartment now houses families at some of the lowest rents in the district".

She also stated that a number of people had asked why the People's Committee did not build several more apartment buildings immediately after.

She was asked if she regarded the People's Committee as being a powerful organization.

She said that the People's Committee's power is growing every day because of the informal communication in the district. She claimed that many people approach the People's Committee about grievances that they have. And the People's Committee, if they can help them, do so.

She also stated that the People's Committee can approach any governmental or municipal department and they are listened to and receive action on their request. At the present time, they have approached the City of Winnipeg Police Commission regarding some problem area, and also the City Public Health Department about housing that should be condemned in the district.

She was asked how she felt the group had gotten the representation and credibility.

At a couple of meetings with the Urban Renewal Department, the question was asked why the City Steering Committee was more inclined to approve the plans of the city council whereas the People's Committee wished to plan, develop and own or manage their own neighbourhood through a development corporation. She stated that they are standing as a group of people who are incorporated for a better neighbourhood, and that they are a non-profit corporation.

She was then asked if she felt that without the initial backing of the IUS, that the People's Committee or something like it could have ever existed. She indicated that she did not think so.

She was asked if she used the different professional people recommended to the group by IUS and she indicated that they had on many occasions.

She was then asked if they used other professional people who were

not connected with IUS and she stated that they had on a number of occasions. She was asked if they took the advice of the professional people. She indicated yes. She was then asked if they always took it and she indicated that they did not, rather they consider their advice and at times they reject their advice.

She was then asked if she felt the committee was dominated by one person or a group of people. She indicated that "at one time we were dominated by one individual, but at the present time the People's Committee is a dedicated group of people and are all beginning to share in the programs and are able to speak for themselves to different people and to each other".

She was asked if the group tried to avoid showdowns, confrontations, between themselves or other groups. She stated that they were a committee but not a stubborn committee and are interested in other points of view, if they notice or read something about another committee in the area they will investigate it but they think for themselves and if there is anything they consider good in their ideas they may inquire about it but they do not go about antagonizing other people.

There appeared to be a better relationship between the People's Committee and the City Steering Committee. She stated that was correct but the People's Committee had their program-when they have definitely decided to develop a specific program they would work toward accomplishing it, but that the People's Committee wished to remain autonomous.

The interview indicated that there had been times when other groups would come and ask for support for specific problems that they were having and the People's Committee supported them.

She indicated that they would support any group as long as they felt that their ideas were good for the neighbourhood.

She was asked what the group had achieved in the past. One priority mentioned was housing. They have the apartment block but they

are not just satisfied with the block which just has suites. "We are asking for land to build". We also visualize plans for the Midland Railway complex, and we have plans for the use of the existing railroad sheds and offices. They have also approached firms who were interested in the Midland Railway yards and that they opposed a large recreation centre covering a large expanse of the Midland Railway property.

She was asked about other efforts of the group in the past, recalling the study of people who were to be affected by the Sherbrook bridge.

She replied that they had made investigations of everyone that was to be affected by the proposed Sherbrook Street Bridge. They called on individual homes and apartment blocks. She thought it was about 85 dwellings and that they have all the information.

IUS was asked by the group to draw up a questionnaire for the group to do their interviews of the 85 dwellings, and they had disregarded it, and drew up their own questionnaire.

She said "that the group study well and think it is their right to make their decisions". For example, they no longer go down to the Institute of Urban Studies to have their minutes printed - they have decided that the minutes are entered into the minute book and that they are now organized according to parliamentary procedures". She stated that their meetings are totally different from what they were at the beginning. There is order and sometimes the meetings end at 9:30 P.M. instead of 12:00 A.M. We usually start at 7:30 P.M., and most of our business is concluded by 9:30 P.M.

She was then asked if the group has failed in any areas. She replied by stating they worked very hard not to fail because they are determined to succeed in one way or another. They feel that their plan was for the improvement of the area and for the good of the people. They feel

it is their duty to see that these plans are carried through.

She was asked about another group IUS is working with which is a self-help housing group who asked the People's Committee to support their proposal for home ownership for families earning less than \$6,000. How has your group responded to that request?

She replied that they have responded to that request by congratulating them for wishing them to become an autonomous group of people, and to wish them success in their efforts. We wish to become an autonomous group just as we wish them to remain autonomous. But if they come through with a definite proposal we will support them as long as it is good for the neighbourhood in general.

"Have you had any disagreements with IUS?" She stated that there had been a few instances but they are minor. "We have had problems in our time, growing pains, but we managed to overcome them".

"Have you ever done anything without the approval of the IUS?" She stated that they had done many things but that when we do not know what we are doing we do not wish to wade into deep water, but when we know what we are doing we do not think it is necessary to bother IUS. I feel the people want it this way because it is here where lies the strength of the People's Committee, that they have confidence in what they are doing. If ever we are doubtful we would ask the IUS".

"What role do you see the IUS playing in the future?" "We hope that the IUS will continue to play the role it is playing now. I think it is necessary that it should and I think it would be a mistake if the IUS withdrew at this point in the People's Committee's life. We may venture into big projects and we may need the IUS to assist us or give us some ideas. If we did not have the IUS we would have to pay for the information, I also think that the IUS would want to continue with us as we are brain child of the IUS. There was a time when the People's Committee

was weak, but it is much stronger now".

"During the moving of the apartment block IUS recommended the hiring of an architect. When the block was complete he became a member of the IUS staff. Has he continued to assist you or have you required his assistance?"

"Yes he has been very useful and we use him often".

"How many active members do you have on the PC?"

"About 25."

"Are there other people who are interested but not active members?"

"Yes."

"How many would you estimate in the category?"

"Overall about 50."

"The People's Committee is constantly growing and I think it is better if it grows slowly and soundly than have a lot of people come into one meeting and not come again."

"At the last meeting I attended to get permission to do this process report there were about 18 people - is that the usual number that attend?"

"Yes."

"I also understand that you are moving into the area."

"Yes that is correct. I spend most of my time here anyway."

INTERVIEWS WITH SOME MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

We contacted other members of the People's Committee. It appears from their discussions with us that many are familiar with the purposes of the People's Committee. The overall feeling was that the group was a powerful entity not just because of the moving of the apartment block but because they have fought for and won recognition from many outside organizations.

Many of the members attributed much of the internal conflict to

one member of the group. But since he is no longer going to meetings the meetings seem to be improving in quality and increasing in size.

Our interviews with other members of the People's Committee indicated both correspondence and disparities in perceptions. It must be remembered that the group declined in membership during the time it dealt with its major personal conflicts, and that recently it has taken back members who had dropped out earlier. These "new" old members are gradually being integrated into the group, but the process is a long one and it seems clear that at the moment the People's Committee is effectively controlled by the Board of Directors. On the other hand, from the involvement on subcommittees and delegation of the total membership, it seems also clear that the Board is attempting to integrate the membership into the decision-making realm.

The interviews revealed that all the members, both new and old, are aware of the work of the People's Committee and its general purpose as a multi-issue group concerned with all the problems of the area. They are aware of the problems of the area themselves, and almost every one has a personal interest in one aspect of the problems. They are not as aware of the difference between a citizens' group and corporate entity (which the People's Committee is) but indications are that the Board is attempting to overcome this information gap.

The People's Committee members contacted seem to be aware of the problems of the apartment block at 610 Ross but as a whole they feel there was more problems with tenants in the beginning but this is slowly being rectified. They face the usual problems of improving the premises and participating in most of the meetings regarding any issue pertinent to Urban Renewal Area # 2.

The City of Winnipeg has finally recognized the People's Committee as a legitimate bargaining agent of the area, and has involved the Committee in discussions with its Urban Renewal Committee and the

Citizens' Steering Committee on an equal basis, thus relaxing tensions between the group.

One of the major features of the People's Committee as a multi-issue group is that it should be capable of dealing with problems on a number of levels -- housing, for instance, in relation to traffic, welfare, health, and general planning. One feature of the interviews indicates that the members generally have little difficulty in handling various issues simultaneously, a significant fact in view of the general failure of multi-issue groups in North America.

The following are areas which the People's Committee is involved in"

1. consultation with St. Andrews Church on the Church's plans for renewal;
2. working with National Association of Housebuilders on experimental low-cost housing;
3. discussion with City Urban Renewal Committee on land use in Midland Railway, with special reference to Kin Park;
4. violations of health regulations in housing;
5. improving quality of parks in area;
6. investigating the proposed move of the Cental Library from the area;
7. working with Police Commission on better quality of protection in the area;
8. working with Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation on moving houses and purchasing houses and getting land for development purposes;
9. working on plans for an apartment complex;
10. working on plans for the area as a whole;
11. working on Community Video Theatre.
12. working on Community Health Centres.
13. bringing a doctor into the area.

The original concept of moving the block revolved around the principle of resident control and management. It was originally thought that the tenants of the block would, by being member of the People's Committee, be their own landlords and influence the decisions made about the block. This concept was reflected in the meetings held between the tenants and the Board of Directors with a lawyer as consultant, in which decisions were made concerning rules and regulations. It appears that with certain pressures this original concept has broken down. From our interviews two problems emerge quite clearly:

1. The tenants have almost no relationship with the People's Committee. Some feel that the Committee has acted "dictatorially" in terms of rules and regulations while others simply accept the Committee as their "landlord". The structure to be used for grievances broke down early in the history of the management of the building.
2. Internally the biggest single problem is noise. The block carries noise throughout the building, and although lately the block seems to be quieter, with the number of children in the block there is always noise. Few people in the block know each other, and keep very much to themselves, and therefore there is little chance for mutual cooperation. A few people said that even though the facilities are larger and better furnished than where they lived previously, they would choose to move back to where they lived before because of the noise.

The second problem was conveyed to the chairman of the People's Committee during the course of this evaluation. She stated that the noise problem was difficult because of the lack of funds available, but that she would be asked the IUS architect for help in combatting the noise.

Positive aspects of the block's concept are:

1. None of the tenants feel that they are living in a public housing or stigmatized project, but that they are simply living in a block as everyone else does;
2. Rents in the block are the lowest in the area and are far lower than those for comparable accommodation outside of the area.
3. Most of the tenants indicated that the problems of noise and social conflict had been lessened in the past months -- one tenant was asked to leave.
4. If there was a way to combat the noise, then the block would improve the social conditions of all of the tenants.

One young lady reported that she was unable to study because of the noise.

It is interesting to note that all six of the tenant families are on some form of social assistance. Three of the tenants are single-parent families.

Most of the tenants expressed a desire to live in a single dwelling unit.

The interviews with residents who lived around 610 Ross, on Ross, Elgin and Pacific, were highly revealing.

1. All were aware of the block as a new addition to the housing stock. All felt it was an improvement to what had been there before - a vacant lot - and that it added something to the area.
2. Some mentioned rowdiness from the block but that it had been cleared up recently. Others were simply not aware of any problems.
3. Most were aware of the People's Committee and its relationship with the block. But no one stigmatized the block in any way as a "welfare block" or "public housing". It was seen as a viable alternative to public housing by some people.
4. Some felt that it was a significant addition to the area - the first thing that had happened to the area in a long history of promises but no actions.
5. Those who were aware of the People's Committee felt that the Committee was effective and strong. They received much information from the newsletter which the Committee had passed around.

There is clearly a constituency of people who are in support of the People's Committee through the credibility it gained with the block. This is a support underestimated by almost everyone connected with the People's Committee, including field staff from IUS, officials from federal departments, and the members themselves. Most significant is the fact that

the block is simply a block - it is not stereotyped, it is understood as low-rental housing but has none of the negative connotations of government public housing; at the same time it stands as a symbol of hope for the surrounding area, that people are able to accomplish something, and that they are able to help each other.

The concept of neighbourhood ownership is of course the backbone of IUS' intervention into the area; it is unfortunate that due to lack of funding this intervention was restricted at the very moment that it could have been capitalized upon. The fact that it is possible for a resident group to do something that a government cannot do without bad social consequences is worth further exploration and research.

To repeat, fifteen families were interviewed; the reactions were almost unanimous.

This concept of neighbourhood ownership was explored further by IUS in its reassessment of its role in Urban Renewal Area #2 in the spring of 1971. To understand the nature of this reassessment, it is necessary to understand the nature of IUS' withdrawal of full-time support from the People's Committee.

REASSESSMENT OF IUS' ROLE IN PEOPLE'S COMMITTEEWithdrawal

Over the winter months staff members of the Institute of Urban Studies had attempted to mediate in the various conflicts within the People's Committee in many different ways (therapy sessions involving the playback of VTR recording of a meeting stiffening the mechanisms of the formal structure of the Committee, helping unite the group behind community actions) but the attempts were rejected after a period of time by the group and thus it became more and more difficult to work with the group. Time was being taken up dealing with problems that were simply not being solved. A decision was made to withdraw from the Committee and to be available to the Committee as a resource. This withdrawal would allow for more flexibility in the IUS' operations within U.R.A. #2.

There were two stages of withdrawal. The first occurred when the Project Director withdrew because of personal attacks. This happened at the meeting to elect new members to the Board of Directors. The Project Director recommended that the group deal with its conflicts and attempt to understand the initial goals of the People's Committee which had been lost with the conflicts within the group. The group indicated that it wished to handle its own conflicts in its own way.

The second stage occurred when the Research Associate stated to the Committee that IUS' role thereafter would be one of a resource to the group; he asked the Committee to state what it wished the institute to do, and he in turn would indicate what the Institute could do. He stated that a lack of funding made it necessary to conserve both the time of staff and the services rendered.

The withdrawal occurred over the months of March, April, and May.

The Reassessment

In May and June all staff members of IUS were engaged in a general reassessment of IUS' role in Urban Renewal Area #2. The reassessment was coordinated by the Research Associate and done in consultation with various resource-persons at the University of Winnipeg.

Basically the reassessment involved looking at the Urban Renewal Area as a whole - analyzing its formal and informal structure, the various alternatives open to various groups, the kinds of formal agency work done - with the intent of developing a role for IUS regarding the problems of Urban Renewal. The original hypothesis with which the IUS entered Urban Renewal #2 was that a Neighbourhood Development Corporation concept provided greater access to neighbourhood decision - making in urban development, and this hypothesis had been partially tested through the People's Committee incorporation.

The question was : how to complete the testing of the original hypothesis? What were the strengths and weaknesses of the particular entree into the area - through the People's Committee - that IUS had taken? What was needed before a strong Neighbourhood Development Corporation could be created? ²

- (2) Neighbourhood Development Corp. Concept papers by Jim Cassidy, not yet available for publication.

IUS staff members undertook an inventory of the area. What groups were there, had there been, and what potential for growth did they have? What informal clusters of people, and what kinds of needs, were there

in the area around which a formal group could gather? What workers were in the area and how could they be involved in an attempt to bring the area together?

Along with this inventory, IUS staff members discussed alternative issues and possible projects. The National Association of Housebuilders had come to IUS to initiate a project of infill urban housing for low-income families. The provincial government had come to IUS to initiate discussion of community health centres in urban renewal areas. St. Andrew's Church had come to IUS to discuss its plans for the use of its land and money in the area. In addition, IUS was familiar with CMHC interest in developing new housing groups.

The inventory revealed that housing, and health employment were areas around which there was great concern and interest. Other issues relating more specifically in urban renewal were the use of land, a proposed bridge which would dislocate 400 people in the area, and the whole aspect of resident decision - making as to development. Urgency was intensified by the new kind of city government coming in January.

Accordingly five alternatives were isolated in terms of reaching the goal of a Development Corporation. These five alternatives were thoroughly discussed and a flow-chart prepared of IUS' role.

The major question was whether IUS involvement should be to strengthen the two already-existing "urban-renewal" groups, the People's Committee and the Steering Committee, or whether to set up specific-interest groups using the Housebuilders, the Community Health Centre, the St. Andrew's site, and a rehabilitation-employment group, as a means of broadening the base of the area.

(Other alternatives involved calling a large conference of all interested groups and people in the area, organizing on a block-by-block basis on a multi-issue level, and working to get citizen candidates in the elections to be held in October.)

IUS' assessment was that the initial phase of its involvement - to develop an independent, multi-issue group - had to be complemented by the development of specific-interest groups; one type of group could not function viably without the other type of group.

Accordingly the flow-chart developed called for two simultaneous actions to be undertaken as the tests to see if other actions could be taken.

1. The People's Committee and Steering Committee would be given as much support as necessary. The Steering Committee was already getting support from People's Opportunity Service, Neighbourhood Service Centre, and the City of Winnipeg; through other IUS actions (Community TV especially) the Steering Committee had also developed a relationship with IUS. The People's Committee was dealing on its own, without any full-time support from IUS, with its internal conflicts. It was made clear to the Committee that any time it needed help, IUS would be available.
2. Work on setting up a self-help housing group, developing public health consciousness within the area, and working on rehabilitation and employment opportunities would begin.

Depending on the response, other alternatives were prepared. If the response were heavy - indicating that there were a great number of people in the area with great needs who were willing to work together to fulfill their needs - then a conference hopefully bringing all groups together was planned. Unfortunately, due to a lack of funding this conference became impossible to set up.

How IUS Proceeded to Implement Its Plan

Stage one of the implementation involved testing the plan with other workers in the area. It became apparent that at that particular time many of the other workers were either busy working with the Steering Committee or going on Summer holidays, and that IUS would have to work on its own. IUS met with Neighbourhood Service Centre and People's Opportunity Service. Two agencies - CYC and Alcoholic Family Services - undertook to join with IUS in developing the concept of a Community Health Centre.

Stage two involved setting up a self-help housing group. This involved working with younger married couples with three or more children who were living in rented housing, and at the same time working with the Housebuilders to develop their understanding of citizen participation and with Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to test their acceptance of self-help housing corporation. Given the lack of funding that necessitated IUS staff members to double up on some of IUS commitments, the original timetable of the plan had to be altered. Originally it called for something to be accomplished by the middle of July; due to lack of funding, delays on the part of the Housebuilders and CMHC vacations and the difficulty of the residents in adjusting to working in a group, it was not until the end of August that the group had decided to develop into a housing corporation. In the meantime it had developed various ideas including cooperative housing, individually-owned housing developed by a housing corporation, the housebuilders' offer to experiment with inexpensive methods of housebuildings, and the ideas of the IUS architect for infill housing.

Stage three involved working on other aspects of housing and health.

Initial contacts were made and developed, although slowly because of lack of funding, with: a group of landlords interested in rehabilitation, a group of residents interested in rehabilitating and developing a block, St. Andrews Church. All of these discussions are still in the negotiation stage, with input from IUS in terms of ideas and resources.

The IUS has been approached by the Manitoba Government to look into the concepts of Community Health Centres discussions are currently taking place within the area and with various interested groups (unions, service clubs) who might be able to help.

The IUS also became involved with a group of citizens in Urban Renewal Area #2 who wished to commit some of their personal funds for physical redesigning of a city block, which was labelled a slum.

Another aspect of IUS involvement in Urban Renewal #2 which was not included in the plan but which became quite useful throughout the summer was the Communications Project, funded by the Opportunities for Youth programme. This Communications project involved the use of small video-tape recorders for better communication within a neighbourhood, and the project developed Community Video Theatre in Urban Renewal Area #2. IUS staff helped the summer volunteers in developing a tape and contacts in the area, and the coordination allowed for a broadening of IUS' base in the area, so that those agencies not contacted through the original implementation were contacted through the Community Theatre.

Assessment

1. The People's Committee has become much stronger by dealing with its own conflicts without IUS intervention. It has been recognized by the City as a legitimate group to be negotiated with in terms of area decision-making. Also,

the People's Committee for a better neighbourhood incorporated is the only citizen group that has a 35-year commitment in Urban Renewal Area #2 because of its mortgage agreement on 610 Ross. The National Film Board has been involved since the summer of 1970 and is doing a film of the processes that the People's Committee have and are going through which should be available in 1972.

2. The self-help housing group, because it is a specific-interest group which functions together very well, is already a powerful entity with backing from CMHC and other organizations.
3. More people in the area are becoming involved through IUS' entree. Because of lack of funding, however, the potential involvement has not been actualized - there simply is not sufficient staff or resources to cover the needs of the area.
4. The nucleus of large-scale involvement is quite clearly there. Although IUS' timetable is slightly off, the implementation of the plan has proceeded with very few hitches. By initiating the formation of a few more groups and by developing the strength of the already existing groups, the chances for the creation of a Neighbourhood Development Corporation which would keep the autonomy of all the groups, but ensure the co-existence and mutual decision-making of all the groups, is quite good.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It seems clear that given sufficient funding the hypothesis with which IUS entered Urban Renewal Area II can become further developed and tested, primarily because it seemed to offer some solution to a complex urban problem, the manpower problem was slightly solved because workers were so committed that they worked long hours.

It should also be borne in mind that we are dealing with a highly heterogeneous area - the most difficult to organize our work with in ethnic minority groups could not be tested adequately because of lack of resources.

I therefore recommend that given sufficient funding and staff support, we would be in a position to be able to continue to implement our initial plan, and to provide more vigorous research results as we test the

completion of the hypothesis.

In conclusion, this report will be used as a discussion and working paper with the People's Committee and the IUS, and a further report should follow indicating how the People's Committee views this report and what steps it will take to strengthen its organization, and how it will deal with specific problems indicated in this report.