

Speakers Debate Poverty Solutions...

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you can't plan ahead, then you can't see past the next day. You cross each bridge when you come to it."

"Then how do you get people to admit the intolerable?" Theobald asked. "If there aren't jobs, how do you get people to accept this?"

"Experiment plays an extremely large role," Alinsky said. "You know, consensus is when you agree with us; when you don't, that's conflict."

No Potential

Alinsky agreed there was no potential for meaningful power within the ghetto of poverty. "They won't organize on a basis of civil rights," he said, "but they will through the ideas they're united in. That kind of alliance will have the power necessary to effect changes, but it must be an independent movement within its own ideas, manned by its own leaders."

"How can you have a working arrangement if you don't know what you're allied for?" Pearl questioned.

"It's as in any alliance," said Alinsky. "You need me and I need you—it's as simple as that."

Theobald asked Alinsky how the guaranteed income passed from "something we talk about to something that's politically discussable?"

"Is it?" Alinsky asked.

Theobald assured him that it was.

Poor Must Change

Lampman said that it is unlikely that any single remedy to the poverty program will appear, at least not in the next year or so. However, he advanced the theory that if the United States made the present economic system better (through a negative income tax, which would, in effect, be a subsidy program much like the guaranteed income) and adapted the present free-market system to the special needs of the poor, then poverty could be lessened.

"Programs for the poor, like unemployment insurance, actu-

ally are inaccessible for the poor," he charged.

But he said that the poor must also change themselves, particularly in the areas of education, health, and community action.

"Look," Alinsky told Lampman. "We didn't care whether they opened segregated restaurants if we didn't have money to go to them. What do you mean by that?"

Lampman then explained that the leading poverty program was the tax cut of 1964. "But a lot of people don't connect that with the general prosperity. They have really helped poor people make their own decisions."

He said that it has enabled many people to train for new jobs.

"You can't train for jobs you hope will be there!" Alinsky exclaimed.

"Well, we're doing it right here in the colleges, right now," Lampman said.

Enough Flexibility

Referring to the tax cut, Theobald asked if there were any assumptions about the state of the economy. He then commented that "if it hadn't been for Viet Nam, the tax cut would have run us into a depression."

Lampman said he thought there is enough flexibility in society to adjust to changing situations, referring to the tax cut.

Lampman wondered, however, if there is enough flexibility to

institute Theobald's guaranteed income. "How much would it cost a year?" he queried.

"About \$20 million" was the reply from Theobald. He committed that the theory that some people wouldn't work if they were guaranteed an income was also a theory of psychological analysis. "My theory is a pre-condition for other changes," he said.

"Why wouldn't it be easier to push for new careers?" Pearl asked him.

"Well," Theobald said, "I have no reason to believe that any of the ideas we're talking about are feasible at all. I think we're going into something like Huxley and Orwell."

"World of Huxley"

"We'll only get into a world of Huxley and Orwell if we don't fight back," Alinsky said.

"Management is going to want to give money to the poor," Theobald said. "Give it to the rich and you've got to talk him into buying your stuff. Give it to the poor and they'll buy it anyway."

Theobald concluded: "The guaranteed income will guarantee man, for the first time, the right

to live in dignity with the right to do what he thinks is important."

"And I believe the guaranteed income is in disagreement with the poverty program."

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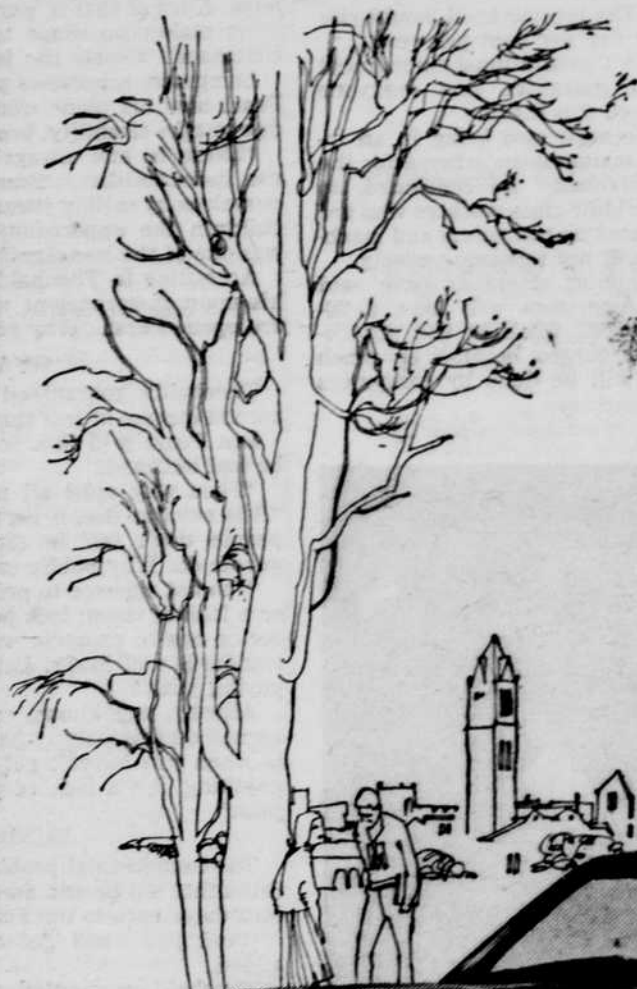
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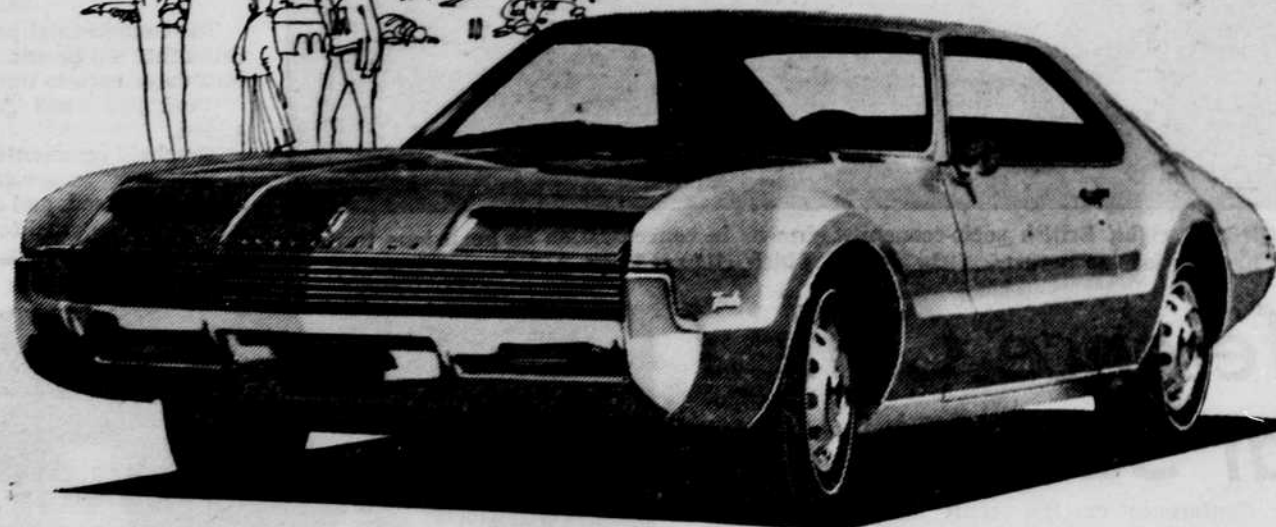
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