

September 14, 1967

RECD SEP 18 1967

→ Honorable John J. Williams
Honorable J. Caleb Boggs
Honorable William V. Roth Jr.

Distinguished Congressmen;

The Peoples Settlement Association, 408 E. 8th St, Wilmington, Delaware is directed by James H. Sills Jr. The Organization is funded in part by OEO money. The history of this organization indicates a record of radical extremism.

Presently the Peoples Settlement Assoc. is requesting over \$200,000 in funds for their continuing operation commencing October 1, 1967 from the Community Action of Greater Wilmington Inc. (Wilmington Morning News 8-11-67)

It is interesting to note that OEO regulations regarding funded organizations in which they relate state, "No project funds shall be used in any partisan political activities or to further the election or defeat of any candidate for public office --- nor may any person, as an employee, engage in partisan political activity." Mrs. Thomas Herlihy Jr., president of Community Action of Greater Wilmington Inc. has stated, "Anti-poverty funds are not to be used in any activity which threatens public order nor may any community action agency such as ours, or any delegate agency, encourage or tolerate such behavior." (Wilm. Morning News 8-3-67)

With these statements in mind I have noted that Sen. Holloway of the Delaware Legislature has accused Peoples Settlement Assoc., an OEO funded agency, of being involved in partisan political participation. (W. Morning News 8-17-67)

Mr. Sills and his organization have been in the forefront of the fight for strong open-housing legislation. I make no criticism regarding the merits of the housing legislation in question but rather the fact that taxpayers funds are used to pursue a program which is highly contested and questionable as an OEO funded venture. Advocates of this legislation have indicated that they seek to destroy any politician politically who does not vote as they wish.

Mr. Sills has stated, "The failure of our government officials to endorse through strong legislation, the principle of equal opportunity in housing, is once again vivid evidence of their flagrant disregard for the acute social problems confronting the masses of Negro citizens living in urban ghettos. In the face of such rejection it becomes easy to understand why Negro citizens take up the chant of black power as advocated by persons as Stokely Carmichael." (W. Morning News 5-18-67)

Statements as Mr. Sills has made tend to fan the flames of hatred between the races. These are not responsible statements. and certainly indicate a venture into the political spectrum.

On March 2, 1966, the Peoples Settlement Assoc. had, as guest speaker at their annual dinner, Mr. Julian Bond. Mr. Bond, a founder of the Communist-leaning Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, was elected to the Georgia Legislature and refused his seat due to his radical criticisms of our war against the Communists in Vietnam. Mr. Bond has endorsed the statement of SNCC of January 7, 1966 which stated, "The United States is the aggressor in Vietnam and that because of U.S. policy, Vietnamese are murdered and sympathy is expressed to men unwilling to respond to the draft." (W. Morning News 2-11-67)

In his speech in Wilmington, Bond warned of "impending rioting exceeding the dimensions of the Watts incidents." (W. Morning News 3-3-66)

On May 25, 1967 a Negro aide to Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Chicago, Rev. Albert R. Sampson, spoke before a group at the Central Baptist Church, 9th and Pine St., Wilmington. Mr. Sampson is also on the staff of Saul Alinsky, a radical Marxist agitator. Mr. Sampson was mentioned prominently in a government report which has implicated the SCLC with gang organizing activities in Chicago and warned, "Gang members are being incited to violence instead of being taught non-violence." (Allen Scott Column 7-15-66) According to literature distributed at the Church, one of the sponsoring organizations of Rev. Sampson was the United Neighbors for Progress--an affiliate of the Peoples Settlement.

On August 31, 1967 a newly formed group, the Black Alliance, announced their formation and stated as their objective, "To launch militant aggressive campaigns of direct action against all of those elements of the white community which obstructs the Negro's rightfull entry into the mainstream of American life." Chairman of this new group is Mr. James H. Sills, 502 E. 6th St., Wilmington and the Executive Director of Peoples Settlement Assoc. (Morning News, 8-31-67) There is strong evidence to indicate that the formation of this new militant group is a direct result of the Black Power Conference held in Newark, New Jersey on July 20-24, 1967.

The Wilmington papers of 9-11-67 announced a speaking engagement of the Rev. James Bevel, a staff member of King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference at the Peoples Settlement Assoc. 408 E. 8th St., Wilmington on Saturday evening, 9-16-67. Topic of his speech is "Vietnam and American Crisis." A House Committee on Un-American Activities report entitled, "Communist Origin and Manipulation of Vietnam Week" dated 3-31-67 pg 53 stated, "Rev. James Bevel--heading up the Spring Mobilization Committee

is evidence that the Communists have succeeded, at least partially, in implementing their strategy of fusing the Vietnam and civil rights issues in order to strengthen their chances of bringing about a reversal of U.S. policy in Vietnam." Sponsoring organization for Mr. Bevel is the Communist oriented Vietnam Summer Group thus emphasizing the close correlation between the Vietnam Summer project and Peoples Settlement Assoc. Rev. Bevel's wife, Diane Bevel, recently made an unauthorized trip to Hanoi. Rev. Bevel has been extremely active in promoting the Communist movement to get us out of Vietnam. The above mentioned report indicates numerous affiliations of Rev. Bevel with radical pro-Red fronts who desire our Nation to literally "surrender" in Vietnam and allow the Communists to take over.

A social worker with Peoples Settlement Assoc., Mr. William Hodsdon, has been very active in the anti-Vietnam program. He is a signer of a petition in the News-Journal Papers of 6-26-67 demanding that we, "Stop the bombing, end escalation, and negotiate now." Mr. Hodgdon has a lengthy history of similar anti-American activities.

United Neighbors for Progress, an affiliate of Peoples Settlement Assoc., has until recently been headed by Mr. Solomon Getters. United Neighbors has been in the forefront of rent strikes and complaints of housing conditions. I take no position on this matter for unquestionably some of the housing and rental charges have merit. I do question the use of tax payer's monies to ferment this picketing and agitation. News Journal papers of 6-15-67 quoted the East-South Housing Council in which Mr. Getters was spokesman as saying, "If it becomes necessary to tie up traffic at major intersections throughout the East side and the central city area, we stand fully prepared to do just that." The East-South Housing Council is another pressure front which overlaps with the Peoples Settlement Assoc.

This has been a very brief sketch of some of the activities of this OEO funded group but I believe sufficient to warrant cutting off federal funds to the Peoples Settlement Association. Recent conversations with Wilmington OEO officials indicated a very foggy explanation by them concerning this matter. Although they readily admit that OEO funds are allotted to the Peoples Settlement Assoc., they claim to have very little control over how the funds are distributed. This I find difficult to believe. I await your comments concerning this group. I am willing to have this information passed on under my name. If there are further questions on my information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

With very warmest regards;

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