

shrank to almost nothing as the population became polarized between the fascist and left-wing forces.

### CETA SLAVE LABOR PROGRAM HITS SNAG

NEW YORK, N.Y., Jan. 7 (IPS)--Board members of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), the country's prime public service jobs program, are holding emergency closed-door meetings this month to try to clear away major obstacles to its full-scale implementation.

Rockefeller had intended to use the CETA apparatus to recycle the growing number of unemployed workers into jobs in both the public and private sectors at approximately half the union wages. But the program has run into major snags. First, there is insufficient funding to provide the number of jobs necessary to match skyrocketing unemployment. Second, despite the willingness of trade union leaders to play the role of kapos, American workers smell a rat. Though many have been unemployed for months, they are not voluntarily applying to become CETA slaves. At the same time, local political machines (as in Chicago) have balked at starting up the recycling machinery, opting instead to use CETA money to keep laid-off municipal workers on their jobs.

So far only 60,000 out of a projected 170,000 CETA-funded low-wage, public service slots have been filled since the program took effect six months ago.

Both coverage in the major press and statements made by CETA administrators this week reveal deep dismay over the program's lack of progress.

The Jan. 6 Wall Street Journal reported one problem which has cropped up in New York and Detroit, both major recipients of CETA funds. According to the financial newspaper, "Dennis Rome, a Detroit [CETA] administrator, declares: 'We can't hire federally funded people into some job title today and two weeks later lay off a bunch of regular employees with the same title who've been on the job two years. It's immoral.'"

Reflecting the confusion among top Labor Department officials, Esther Friedman, executive assistant to Assistant Secretary of Labor Kohlberg, publicly admitted "I can't figure out why the money hasn't been adequately spent on Title II [public service employment]; we've been trying to cajole them [the prime sponsors]; maybe it's fear."

Robert Hart, manpower expert for the CETA board in Columbus, Ohio, blamed the program's difficulties on administrative red tape. Hart stated that "people in city government feel up against

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the wall in filling out forms for the government." But he leaked what the key flaw is when he explained, "Even with cooperation of city agencies, communities are having difficulty in the democratic process."

One example of what Hart referred to as "difficulties with the democratic process" occurred at a meeting of church ministers and Chrysler consultants in Detroit two weeks ago. The ministers convened the meeting to discuss their role in involving parishioners in selling CETA slave-labor as a solution to the unemployment crisis. According to one of its organizers, Episcopalian Bishop McGhee, the meeting was a miserable failure. The crisis was discussed, but nothing solid was agreed to. The meeting's high point came, McGhee said, when one clergyman proposed a debt moratorium as an alternative to unemployment and slave labor. The proposal, one of the Labor Party's main agitational thrusts, was heatedly discussed.

Statements made by other CETA officials directly contradict the government's claim that CETA workers will neither take jobs away from unionized or Civil Service public employees, nor be paid less than regular public employees doing the same job. Scott Kaplan, assistant manpower coordinator for Mercer County, New Jersey boasted: "The less we pay, the more people we can hire" with CETA funds. After all, "this year is called the year of austerity."

In New York City, where more than 8,800 city workers are slated to be laid off with many more to come, the Department of Employment commissioner Lucille Rose hysterically insisted that laid-off municipal workers were not being replaced by CETA slaves although she blurted out that many people assigned to CETA jobs in the lower-paid special "assistant" category were actually doing the work of a regular, full-time employee.

#### OGDEN ACQUITTED OF RIOT CHARGES IN VIRGINIA

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Jan. 7 (IPS)--Alan Ogden, U.S. Labor Party Congressional candidate who polled 11 per cent of the vote in Richmond last November, was acquitted in Newport News District Court on charges of incitement to riot and disorderly conduct. The charges stemmed from a Labor Party rally at a factory gate in this shipbuilding town, where a police officer alleged that Ogden used foul language.

Last fall, Ogden was convicted and given a one-year suspended sentence on a trespassing charge for holding an election rally in front of a Richmond high school. If convicted this time, Ogden faced up to one year in jail on the previous sentence.