

THE TRUTH ABOUT ROUTE 75

Those of you familiar with the Medical School fight are conscious of the growing problem of urban renewal and highway construction. Through the use of eminent domain, the power structure has broken up neighborhoods, moved thousands from their homes and erected institutions altogether foreign to the poor Black population in the center cities.

But there are deeper implications about which you should be concerned as an intelligent and aware citizen.

1. Newark is land poor and has a tremendous supply of unfit houses. It is the second most densely populated, the most and poor major city in the country, and has a housing supply that is 34% deteriorated. Therefore, any public works project that does not convert and use into housing (or related and necessary neighborhood facilities) wastes this most valuable commodity. Urban renewal has not produced an increase in housing for poor Black people to date. Highways cannot possibly do this.
2. Black people in Newark are on the threshold of achieving major political power. In 1970, it is possible for Blacks to elect a Black Mayor and a majority to city council. This can be done only with a huge turn out of Black voters. With highways and urban renewal disrupting neighborhoods and uprooting people this huge volume of voters will never be achieved. When people move from place to place, they fail to re-register at their new place of residence. Still others leave Newark. In the Central Ward alone as a result of urban renewal, the voting rolls decreased by 8,000 people from 1964 to 1968. There was no appreciable increase in the number of voters in any other parts of the city to show re-registration. These voters were lost; this illustrates the need for concern.

Furthermore, there are those who will not register because they have no stake in any community. A landless populace has no interest in concepts of "community and "power". We must be concerned about these potential voters.

For these two (2) reasons, we must defy Route 75. It will displace 15,000-17,000 Black people. The map shows the area taken, and what the community will look like after it is completed. All total the 3 (three) highways pictured will displace 30,000 Blacks, more than the proposed Newark College of Medicine and Dentistry of Summer 1967. Routes 78 and 280 are too far gone to be opposed, but Route 75 has not yet been started.

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We are therefore preparing ourselves for a major political fight, and we ask you to join with us. We must keep the community intact, to save Black voters. Although the neighborhoods affected are run down, we must see to it that people get decent houses before they are forced to move. To do this, we must all unite to preserve power, and convert it into another form of energy in 1970.