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Congressman Adam C. Powell
Chairman, Education and Labor Committee
Senate Office Building
Washington, 25 D.C.

Dear Congressman Powell:

As members of the Negro and Puerto Rican communities of Newark, we are writing to express our concern for the Anti-poverty program in Newark.

We are both members of the Board of Trustees of the United Community Corporation, a private, non-profit group, coordinating the anti-poverty campaign in Newark under the Economic Opportunities Act.

This is a representative group of community people, clergy, labor, and business; and includes the city administration, which is represented by the heads of virtually every department affected by this Act: the Board of Education, Chairman of the Housing Authority, Chairman of the Welfare Department, plus many other persons closely identified with the city administration.

We believe that the Mayor is attempting to blackmail the corporation into expanding his powers on the board by having the City Council withhold those funds necessary to obtain federal funds for previously approved programs.

We further believe that two councilmen, Frank Addonizio and Lee Bernstein, have created a study committee solely for the purpose of bringing the anti-poverty program under the control of the Mayor and the City Council. They have been attacking the program constantly from the very out-set, when they found that they could not control the jobs connected with this program. They have yet to take one constructive action regarding the program in Newark, which is rated as one of the nations best.

We believe that the anti-poverty program is just getting off the ground here, and the actions of the Mayor and the two Councilmen involved, will only serve to destroy what faith the community has in the program; and in so doing, completely wreck the anti-poverty program here in Newark.

The delay caused by Councilmen Frank Addonizio and Lee Bernstein may well cost the city over \$2.5 million in federal funds for the five anti-poverty programs now pending in Washington.

We urge that you use the influence of your office to stop this political take-over and destruction of the anti-poverty program in Newark.

We are enclosing several newspaper articles which will give you some background on this problem.

Very truly yours,


George C. Richardson


Hilda Hidalgo

c.c. Sargent Shriver
John C. Bullitt