

the master plan

JANUARY 25, 1968

NO 2

newsletter of
the emergency
committee to
stop route 75
phone 642-2760

A HIGHWAY AREA RESIDENT SPEAKS OUT... mai cox.

Trying to Understand

In my travels over the ups and downs of life's highway, I've with many folks of all walks of life, Black, white, Chinese, Italians, Jews, Poles, etc.,--all have problems. I listened to their problems and compared them with mine, along with their opinions, troubles, and jokes. I've tried to understand them, wrong or right, because I felt that this was how one has to function if he is to get along (try to understand). "Struggle hard and harder, poor man, whether you are Black or white, the poorer you are the harder the struggle."

Now I feel like adding something more than the silence which was my chosen way when I was trying to understand everyone else's problems. Taking a good look at my own problems, I realize that I have been silent for too long, for in my struggle for existence silence will never pay. So I will travel with a loud voice upon life's highway, working hard to avoid self-made strife. I see the proposed Route 75 not as a road of any purpose to me, but an obstacle in my way as I try to survive, so I'll try harder and harder to convince my fellow man how important it is to stop Route 75.

Growing Community Concern

"The Family That Fight Together Stays Together"

Perhaps some of us that live out of the path of the proposed route 75 may wonder why should I be interested in this fight? and I am emphasizing fight, because it is just that, or other such questions as "Why shouldn't these buildings be torn down? the conditions of some are deplorable and most of them are owned by white slum lords anyway". True! But there are other ways to combat many of these conditions, why spend \$112,000,000 for a mere midtown connector, for the convenience of suburbanite taxpayers, when our money could be used for new housing facilities, or for renovations on some of the already existing structures, or to apply

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE ACTIONS ... BOB CROSS

"If the pot is boiling something is making it boil."

The above statement is an African proverb that is quite applicable to our efforts to stop Route 75. We must bring the total situation to a boiling point; those persons or agencies responsible for the acquisition of land and demolition of property along the route of this proposed highway must invariably be placed in the pot.

In order that we might move away from the age-old manifestations of "boiling", this committee will employ the use of valid facts (what is and what ain't). So as to get our candidates for the pot closer to the fire, we quote from a letter from David Goldberg, State Commissioner of Transportation, to Mr. Aaron Lambert, of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, dated November 27, 1968: "The Department of Transportation recognizes that problems in the City of Newark involving the relocation of persons displaced by various public projects--urban renewal and educational, as well as highway--require an increased sensitivity to the complications posed by all major public projects in this area. For this reason, the Department would like to again re-emphasize the fact that it has no immediate need for any of the properties located within the City of Newark's urban renewal areas and that acquisition of properties on behalf of this Department are not necessary at this point in time.

We would request, therefore, that no unnecessary property acquisitions would proceed on the Department's behalf."

Now if the State is not buying your property, who is? Check out the Newark Housing Authority; a copy of the above letter was sent to Louis Danzig, who heads Newark's Urban Renewal project. Be honest with yourself after making that check and join us in being the something that will make this pot boil. Phone 642-2760.