CURRENT FREEDOM HOUSE PROGRAM AND PROJECTS

Freedom House is a "community service" organization unique in the Boston community. Some of the ways in which it performs its function are as follows:

1. the operation and maintenance of a first class building facility available to all kinds of adult community groups and organizations as a center for their meetings, conferences, headquarters, and for their special events such as teas, receptions, fashion shows, and the like. Among the organizations utilizing the building in this way are METCO, the GROVE HALL BOARD OF TRADE, the GOLDENAIRES, NEGRO REPERTORY THEATRE, and a multitude of others.

Freedom House is also the home address for the Association for Better Housing, Inc., the Boston Community-Media Committee, Catalyst in Social Work, New Experiences for Children, and the City Missionary Case-Aide Program.

It should be noted that Freedom House is one of the few buildings in the black community where whites come and go freely and where, in fact, they are welcome.

2. the provision of a public Information and Referral Service which offers assistance on any and all kinds of questions and problems to anyone - black, white, local, suburban, out-of-state, public or private institutions or individuals. The service ranges all the way from a simple answer re how to get in touch with some community organization to intensive help on jobs, housing, schools, scholarships, or municipal services.

3. the provision of skilled secretarial assistance and mimeographing services to innumerable other community groups and organizations such as the Mass. State Union of Women's Clubs, N.A.R.C.E., Amvets Auxiliary #128, Association of Business and Professional Women of Boston & Vicinity, Inc. and the Women's Service Club. This often includes editing, re-writing, and help with format for programs and reports. Most of the groups so helped are important black voluntary organizations without professional staff or office equipment.

4. the provision of professional consultant service to business and industry on how to establish productive relationships within the black community and sound procedures for the initiation and execution of programs designed to help meet inner city problems. Special service of this kind has been rendered by FREEDOM HOUSE to Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, United Carr-Fastener, New England Tel. & Tel., Sheraton Hotels and Standard Oil among others.

5. the development and implementation of special consultant and recruitment service to colleges, universities, and private schools in relation to black students. Freedom House has worked with the University of Massachusetts, Radcliffe College, St. Mary's-in-the-Mountains and other schools in the New England area.

(The Associate Director serves as a trustee of the U. of Mass., of St. Mary's in the Mountains, and of the Harvard-Radcliffe Afro-American Student Center. Was formerly a member of the Radcliffe Alumnae Association Board of Directors).
6. Provision of direct service to individuals and organizations who cannot find assistance elsewhere.

7. the setting up and operation of an Emergency Loan Fund through which people needing short-term loans receive help based upon nothing more than a determination by Freedom House that their need is valid and they can be trusted to repay. Outright grants are also made when the situation requires them.

8. the establishment of a Freedom House Credit Union with now sufficient assets over the required period of time to pay dividends to its members at 4½%.

9. the assumption of a leadership role in community betterment, especially as it relates to urban renewal in Washington Park and the involvement of the Boston and suburban "black middle class" in the struggle; e.g. the part played by Freedom House board members and executives in the formation of Blacks Helping Blacks, Inc. which in turn helped to raise funds for METCO's summer project of sending young black people to Europe and Africa.

10. the participation of the professional staff in all kinds of related community activities: Mass. Council on Crime and Correction, Education Commission of the States, Booth Memorial Home of the Salvation Army, N.A.A.C.P. and the Positive Program, James Jackson Putnam Children's Center, Boston Council for International Visitors, and on and on.