ANTICIPATED PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

1970 - 1971

It should be very carefully noted that one of the great assets and strengths of Freedom House is its flexibility. It is able to meet the test of remaining "relevant" for the very reason that it is so designed to respond to the swift currents of change and constantly shifting community demands and pressures without major internal upheaval.

At the same time, it is also deeply concerned with the long-range needs of the black community and has planned for the future the following programs and projects:

URBAN RENEWAL

1. Assumption of the responsibility for the completion of physical renewal in Washington Park and the organization of community support and back-up to ensure that this is accomplished. This involves Freedom House in the development of a strong, on-going citizens' group which will be able to perform a "watch-dog" function over the gains already made and to set forth proposals and plans which are needed for the social health of the neighborhood.

EDUCATION

2. With the tremendous demand among colleges, universities and private schools for black students, the glaring inadequacies of the preparation of these students have been showing up in painful fashion. Therefore, Freedom House will undertake a special program of "adopting" a group or a class of 6th grade young people - boys or girls - and providing them with guidance through the educational "maze" of college preparatory or technical training courses needed to equip them for entrance without the handicaps most of them bring today. Part of this need is related to the fact that such youngsters have neither parents nor vocational guidance people able to give them this kind of help.

In addition, as part of informal education, we envision matching the young people with black adults in various fields who would spend time talking with them, advising them, and being models for them.

HOUSING

3. Freedom House Development Corporation is in the process of completing plans for building 127 units of 221 (d) 3 housing. The experience thus far with the housing already built in Washington Park under the renewal program points up the great need for more attention to management problems and tenant relations at the outset. Therefore, we will address ourselves to finding new ways of handling this situation including innovations such as "pilot families", an on-the-spot service and referral center, provision of a day care center (within the development if possible), and determination of whether or not real management-tenant responsibility for the maintenance of satisfactory living conditions can be achieved.
4. At this stage in the growth of black awareness, the tensions and frictions between black and white, Freedom House must assume an even stronger leadership role. As a stable community institution, these are a few of the areas of race and community relations in which we can make significant contributions:

a. Continuing to play the role of catalyst, utilizing such tools as a regular NEWSLETTER, public meetings, forums, etc. for defining and airing issues and encouraging the great un-heard from segments of the black community to express their views and feelings.

b. Utilizing our building facilities for a planned series of community meetings designed for black-white dialogue on critical and current issues, for informal black-white contact, and for determining real community sentiment on any given issues.

5. Although the four areas mentioned above are on our drawing board, Freedom House will undoubtedly find itself engaged in any number of other activities in 1970-71, contingent upon the climate of race relations in this city and this country and the mood of the black community.