

June 1, 1968

Manhattan Bowery Project

The Project staff recently operated a three-day experimental nursing station on the first floor of the Men's Shelter. The station was set up in the "deck", a large room near the entrance to the Shelter where Bowery men congregate during the day and night.

The purposes of the experiment were: (1) to evaluate the need of persons in the deck for emergency, immediate or long term medical care; (2) to determine the extent to which a nurse and the consulting services of a Project physician could deal with medical problems in the deck; (3) to test the safety and efficiency of nursing personnel working in the deck; and (4) to evaluate the need for deck supervision.

The nursing station was operated from 8:00 A.M. to midnight by members of the Project nursing staff, who were accompanied by Welfare patrolmen, Shelter attendants or Project police officers. A Project physician was on call at all times.

Approximately 150 men were treated during the three-day period. Half were given minor aid; half were given intensive interviews and medical treatment and, when necessary, were referred to a clinic for medical care or to the Shelter for social service assistance.

The most frequent problem encountered was acute alcoholism compounded by fear of impending delirium tremens. The next most frequent problems were infected leg ulcers and seizure disorders. Seventy-one of the 75 interviewed presented problems which required further attention by medical or social service personnel. A total of 46 men were referred to Bellevue Hospital or St. Vincent's Hospital for treatment and six men were admitted to the Manhattan Bowery Project for detoxification.

On the basis of the experiment, three recommendations were made: (1) effective supervision be provided in the deck area to protect the men from abuse and violence; (2) a Public Health clinic be established within the deck area, and (3) that a system be established for transporting men in need of emergency care to appropriate facilities.

A proposal to accomplish these goals is being drafted.

### Manhattan Court Employment Project

As of May 22, 19 participants have returned to court for hearings. Seven cases have been dismissed upon the recommendation of Project Representatives. Adjournments were requested and granted for the remaining participants, who will continue in the Project for another one to three months before returning to court.

### Manhattan Summons Project

Statistics from the Summons Project, which began city-wide operation July 1, 1967, show a continued increase in the use of the summons. Almost 1,500 summonses were issued in March. Among the factors contributing to this increase are: (1) a 6% reduction in persons refusing to be interviewed, (2) better understanding on the part of police personnel of summons procedures and (3) greater confidence that persons released on summonses will appear in court for trial. Nearly 70% of persons eligible are now being released on summonses, immediately after arrest.

Several steps are being taken to improve the operations of the Summons Project. (1) The Bureau of Applied Social Research at Columbia will analyze investigation reports of jumpers and a sample of non-jumpers to determine whether changes should be made in the point-scale system used in issuing summons. (2) Persons from Mayor Lindsay's Volunteer Program assigned to police precincts are contacting persons who have missed court appearances by telephone and letter in an effort to increase the number of persons returning for trial. (3) Field inspections will be made to precincts with below average summons activity and those with high jump rates in order to improve Project procedures.

### Traffic Court Alert Project

This pilot study is a cooperative effort of the Police Department, the New York City Criminal Court, and Vera, aimed at reducing the amount of time police officers spend in court. Officers who are scheduled for trials in the Manhattan Traffic Court remain at their precinct assignments until a Police Trainee assigned to the Traffic Court notifies the precinct that the officer is needed in Court.

All precincts in Manhattan South (those south of 59th Street) and one in Manhattan North participate in the project which has

been operating since November 1, 1967. Statistics for the first six months of operation show that of the 2,966 officers scheduled to appear in Traffic Court, 1,365 were not required and thus remained on patrol. Those officers scheduled and required to appear were dispatched from the precinct to the Court. Officers from the 34th Precinct in Manhattan North, the precinct furthest from the court building, required 1 1/4 hours to arrive in court, and trials were scheduled accordingly.

#### Police-Community Career Development Program

Fifty young men and women -- unemployed and unskilled residents of culturally deprived areas in New York City -- are trainees in the Police-Community Career Development Program. This job training program, which will run for 6 months, is made possible by a \$125,000 contribution from Standard Oil Company (N.J.). It is designed to prepare these young people for jobs which will enable them to support themselves and which will give them an economic stake in the community. Their preparation includes 24 weeks of remedial education and vocational training at Voorhees Technical Institute and on-the-job training at job sites in the New York City Police Department. After completing training in August, each trainee will be placed in a job in private industry.

The program now in progress is a pilot study designed to test the feasibility of using municipal government as a job training ground for upgrading the skills and employability of poverty-level young people. It is geared specifically for the unemployed or underemployed person who is motivated, but due to poor skills is not employed or is trapped in a low-level job with little chance for advancement.

#### Development of Fingerprint Transmission Equipment

The New York Police Department now transmits fingerprints to the Central Identification Unit in lower Manhattan by messenger.

The Police Department and Vera have been working with General Precision Laboratories, Pleasantville, New York to develop a system for accelerated transmission of fingerprints by closed circuit television. At present, there is only one means of automated transmission available -- photo facsimile. This method is used by New York State Identification and Intelligence System and requires approximately 15 minutes to transmit one set of fingerprints. The proposed method of transmission via closed circuit television requires 30 seconds.

### Court Delay and Sentencing Committee

This Committee of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council will attempt to develop programs in the areas of speedy trial, plea bargaining and sentencing procedures. Initially the committee will sponsor four projects:

1. Traffic Court Alert - see above.
2. Criminal Court Alert - a plan to extend the Traffic Court alert system into other parts of the Criminal Court.
3. Calendar Control - a project designed to eliminate from the calendar those cases not ready for disposition by granting adjournments prior to the scheduled appearance.
4. Sentencing - a project designed to provide judges with verified information in a compact form. This project would utilize an adapted form of the pretrial release criteria developed by the Manhattan Bail and Summons Projects.

Staff attorneys Tom Chittenden and Bob Dobrish have been assigned to the Committee.

### Family Court Project

The recently organized Youth Services Committee of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, chaired by Rev. Donald Harrington, held its first meeting at City Hall on May.7.

Two projects are being developed by the Vera staff:

- (1) the establishment of a prosecutive office in the Juvenile Term of the Family Court (discussed in last month's Vera Report)
- and (2) the development of neighborhood-based youth residence facilities to be used as alternatives to detention in Youth House.