

TENANT COUNCIL NEWS

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TEL. 872-8703

8906 12TH

THE PICKET LINE

... by Willie Wade

On Thursday, June 3, the Tenant Action Council (TAC) picketed 1350 East Jefferson, an apartment building owned by the Goodman Bros. Realty Co.

They picketed to point out that Goodman was allowing slums to develop in our area while he appears to be a responsible landlord in their building.

In a leaflet which was given to the tenants in the building and passers-by, we pointed out that payment of rent entitles a tenant to at least adequate building protection, adequate fire protection and healthful living conditions. On the leaflet we asked them to help us in convincing Goodman Bros. that they have a responsibility to ALL their tenants.

At The St. Regis Hotel

On Thursday morning, May 27, at 6:45 a.m. six people were chained to the entranceways to the construction site at the St. Regis Hotel while others from TAC and CORE picketed and sang.

The "chain-in" was to show our determination to continue to protest the use of our rent money and our tax money for the building of a luxurious hotel by Goodman in the name of area redevelopment, while he allows our neighborhood to "slum".

CARETAKER COURTESY

... Chuck Little
1600 Seward

In our fight for cleaner buildings we also seek courtesy and respect which as paying tenants we demand.

I have been engaged in a brain-washing game with the caretaker. I was told to move from in front of the building in which I live while waiting for a cab. I called the police and was told I could stand as long as I liked but not in a large group. I have also heard of other tenants having trouble with caretakers.

SO MY BLACK CARETAKERS COME
HELP YOUR BLACK BROTHERS AND SISTERS
WIN THIS FIGHT FOR A CLEANER COMMUNITY.
WE ARE NOT AFRAID OF THE SLUMLORDS!

NEW COUNCIL AT 1421 DELAWARE

..... Cebie Johnson

We have had two meetings in the apartment building at 1421 Delaware owned by Sam Beznos. The first meeting was in the poorly furnished apartment of Cebie Johnson Jr. He told CORE and the Tenant Action Council that he is getting very little for his money. He has been tempted to move several times but he is going to stay in the building because there are people in the building that have worse living conditions than his. He said that he has seen most of the tenants' apartments.

The Tenant Action Council members and CORE members have seen the living conditions of the tenants in the buildings. CORE and the tenant council agreed that the people are getting very little for their money.

We as members of the tenant council of 1421 Delaware would like our living conditions improved or we will take immediate action.

THE COURT

After six tenants filed suit in federal court against the Goodman Bros. Realty Co. for being evicted because they formed a group to better the living conditions in their building, the federal judge made them promise not to participate in any demonstrations against Goodman.

Because of this demand by the judge, the tenants decided to move their case into state level courts. They did this so they could participate with other tenants in demonstrations against Goodman, even though they decrease the possibility of a victory on the first round because at the state level the case is no longer a constitutional matter involving the right to free assembly.

As a result of the move to state court, the case was heard in circuit court on Wednesday, June 2, where the case was decided in favor of the defendant, Goodman Bros. We are appealing. We feel we lost this round because this court doesn't have the power to decide a case on the basis of its constitutionality. Based on constitutional rights, we feel we can't lose.

Tenants involved in the case were from 2210 Pingree, 1600 Seward, 1744 Seward, 2610 Webb and 1771 Seward.

GOODMAN CONTINUES TO FIGHT CORE & TAC

On Friday, June 4, the six chain-ins from the St. Regis were arraigned for the second time.

After trespassing charges against the six were dropped by the construction superintendent at the St. Regis, Goodman brought the same charges.

There must be money in it for him!!!

THE TENANT THINKS

1421 Delaware Tenant Council News

I am a tenant at 1421 Delaware. I have been living there since December of '64. My floors are in bad shape, the walls are peeling, the water system is bad in all apartments, and there are no keys to the mailboxes. The elevators are poorly equipped and there are not any decent shades at the windows.

The hallways don't have carpet, neither are the hallways painted. The building carries a bad odor from the poor washing machine system in the basement. The heating system in the winter-time is very poor. Sometimes it is burning hot in the building and when all of that scorching heat leaves it's back cold again.

All of the tenants seem to be interested in starting a tenant council in this building. I think when this column reaches their apartment, this will inspire them to work a little harder with their chairman.

Some of the tenants say they saw two rats last night as big as rabbits. This I have to see. I know the roaches in the building get to be big fellows!

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2210 Pingree

It seems that our efforts in demonstrations and other protests against Goodman's policies in the 12th Street area are causing the Mayor to be concerned. He has assigned the Commission on Community Relations to investigate our complaints and aid us in solving our problems. We hope they will be useful to us in our struggle for better living conditions.

NEW ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

The Building Tenant Council

A tenant council consists of people living in the same building who have decided that the time has come for them to start receiving their due. They have decided that they shall be heard and they shall fight and create their own image and not be forced to live under an image of our community created by the rest of the City.

How do they develop this image? It's developed by tenants uniting to put pressure on those who are against the community's betterment.

The Tenant Council members have a firm belief that their opinions count and are devoted to making their opposition aware of their opinions and the correctness of these views.

The Tenant Action Council (TAC)

The Tenant Action Council (TAC) is the united tenant councils of our community. Its function is similar to that of the federal branch of our government. If we look at the tenant councils as the 50 states, each having its own problems and each located in a different building, TAC is the organization where all the building councils unite to form a true community approach to our neighborhood problems in the same manner that the fifty states unite to form a national government.

In the past, TAC's attacks on our opposition have been indirect, even though there are many direct actions and more effective actions on our drawing boards. We've been indirect because of a lack of numbers. For example, the most effective way to cause a landlord to change his ways is to cut off the money we pay him for the things we don't get. But without complete cooperation, a rent strike couldn't have its greatest effect.

TAC PLANS ANOTHER RALLY

The Tenant Action Council (TAC) is concluding plans for their second rally, continuing their effort to involve the entire 12th Street area in our fight to better our way of life. The rally is planned for Saturday, June 12 on Pingree between 14th and La Salle.

The first rally was May 15 on Woodrow Wilson between Seward and Delaware. The response from that area was so great that we are still making first contacts.

We hope that response from our second rally will be even better than from the first.

TAC WANTS TO KNOW!!

WHAT DO YOU THINK NEEDS TO BE DONE TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY?

WRITE OR CALL THE CORE OFFICE AND LEAVE YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR TAC.

THE ADDRESS IS:

Congress of Racial Equality
8906 12th St. (872-8703)

The Tenant Action Council (cont'd)

So join a tenant organization and be active, first on the building level and then community level. Remember, if you fight for what you want, you can win, but if you don't fight you haven't got a chance to better your lot.

News from a Building Council
2210 Pingree

By continuous pressure on the Health Department we at 2210 Pingree are beginning to think that our building could be made into a healthier place to live. The Health Department has gotten the drain in the basement unstopped where water was standing for weeks. They have caused Goodman to be concerned about the bad condition of the incinerator, leaking roof in our lobby and the water standing in the lobby when it rains.

Like we said before, the building shows potential, but there is lots to be done and we don't intend to stop until we're getting our money's worth.

Why don't you join our fight and demand what you are paying for?

Dates to Remember

Mark these dates on your calendar so you can be active with TAC --

June 8 --- TAC meeting - 7:30 p.m.
at CORE office, 8906 12th

June 12 -- Rally - 6:00 p.m.
Pingree between 14th and
La Salle

HELP WANTED

Responsible, mature woman with typing experience to work in CORE office, 8906 12th St. from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. through Fri. starting end of June. Call 872-8703 between 4 and 6 p.m. for appointment.

The Tenant Newsletter is in need of help in the form of people, articles, suggestions and comments. Persons interested call the CORE office (872-8703) between 4 and 6 p.m. Mon. to Fri.

SOMETHING YOU CAN DO!

As a TAC project all persons in the community are asked to write letters to the mayor expressing discontent over his apparent lack of direct concern with our struggle to better our community.

Also, tenants are asked to write and call the health department, fire department or plumbing department making a complaint of anything in your building that you think might be a violation of the housing code. When you call, make a note of the date and who you talked to so that we can see if action is taken on your complaint.

CORE has asked TAC and TAC asks YOU -- to give your written support to the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party in its effort to unseat the all-white Mississippi delegates in Congress.

Write to Speaker of the House of Representatives, John W. McCormack; Chairman of the Subcommittee on Elections, Mr. Robert T. Ashmore; your congressman; and Gerald Ford, the minority leader in the House. State in your letter that it is very important that the decision of the committee - Subcommittee on Elections - be reported on the floor of the House by June 15, 1965, so that all congressmen will have the opportunity to vote on unseating the Mississippi regulars by July 1, 1965.

Those who like to write can send letters to the Subcommittee on Election members also. They are: Wayne Hays, George M. Rhodes, Lucien Nedzi; and Frank Thompson, Jr. - House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.