



*"We're tired of cleaning your houses and building your factories . . . and being told we're lazy. We want the training for decent jobs."*

The problem of locating large scale industry or employment accessible to North Kenwood-Oakland is complicated by the construction of Robert Taylor Homes public housing along the main transportation artery. If this land were clear, large factories or office buildings would locate along the Dan Ryan Expressway, near the rapid transit and railroad.

Since Robert Taylor Homes was built in 1962, it is unlikely that it will be cleared soon, in spite of the many objections to it.

For example, the density of R.T.H. is 293 people per acre, compared to 78 people per acre for the City's residential land as a whole. Of the 27,000 residents, 75% are minors.

With these aspects considered, a reasonable approach might be to change the use of these high rise buildings from residential to office-residential. The first stage would be to provide new lower density housing for about 1/2 of the present families, at another site. One-half of the buildings could then be remodeled for office use. Large companies could locate branch offices, and new professional and business quarters could be developed.

In view of the high unemployment rate and low training level of the present residents (see graph p. 1) a necessary part of this proposal would be a massive training program. The Federal government would have to underwrite the salaries while training programs were in effect. The main advantage to this type of program would be that people could be trained for jobs that really exist in the mainstream of American life.

Another means of increasing employment in North Kenwood-Oakland would be to give priority to residents of the community for the large scale rehabilitation work that is needed. This would include commitments from the labor unions to provide the apprenticeship needed, and to allow "sweat equity", where a resident may develop equity in property by doing some of the work himself. The unions must also allow the development of prefabricated buildings, in order to increase the production of housing.

Training programs must also be developed in property management for new owners of property.

