

The Storefront Lawyer Helps the Poor

By HERBERT MITGANG

JOBS, housing, education—these are recognized as the major problems of the sixth of the nation that lives in poverty. But a fourth—equality before the law—is seldom mentioned because it is little recognized and, anyway, seems like a luxury. Yet a new generation of dedicated young attorneys, shunning the blandishments of Wall Street firms, is proving that access to legal rights can help the poor to attain the other basic rights.

And the poor are coming to these young community lawyers by the hundreds of thousands. If the poor can't find the lawyers, the lawyers track down the poor. Nothing like this has happened before to extend legal rights in this country.

In less than three years, community law offices have become a major federally supported undertaking of the Office of Economic Opportunity. Its legal services program is behind 850 law offices in 255 projects staffed by 1,800 full-time lawyers (this compares in numbers and talent to the 2,000 attorneys of the Department of Justice in Washington and all its regional offices). Every state but North Dakota and Alabama has at least one community law office receiving Federal help, and Birmingham and a three-county rural area in Alabama have applied for assistance.

Community law offices take various forms. The usual location is at street level or one flight up, with a big sign in the window inviting indigent clients to enter. A legal van on wheels covers a two-county area out of Jay, Okla. It is similar to the mobile law office run by Mobilization for Youth on New York's Lower East Side. On the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and in rural Montana, legal circuit riders make the rounds in the tradition of country doctors and preachers.

These community lawyers have provided legal advice and representation for approximately 600,000 poor families in the last two years. They have helped more than a thousand block clubs, tenant groups and poverty organizations to set up buying clubs, co-op laundromats, credit unions and other self-help institu-

HERBERT MITGANG is a member of The Times editorial board. His biography of Judge Samuel Seabury, "The Man Who Rode the Tiger," received the American Bar Association's Gavel Award.



tions. They have educated more than two million poor people about their rights and responsibilities through neighborhood legal-awareness programs.

Because dedication motivates the attorneys in community-law practice, the Federal Government gets a high return on its investment; the poor have to pay no fees at all for legal service, and there is comparatively little cost to Washington.

Since the attorneys do not come under Civil Service, staff salaries range from \$6,000 a year in rural areas to \$15,000 in the cities, with the average \$8,500 (project directors average \$14,000 a year). The total budget going directly into community operations across the country this past fiscal year was \$38-

million, plus another \$3-million for research, technical assistance and training programs in law schools and elsewhere. O.E.O. legal services has requested additional funds for more storefronts, but the new Administration may disagree with the idea.

IT is a maxim of the private practitioner that his time is too valuable for him to go to court. The community lawyers do go, and with a zest that annoys some judges and police officers. "You're not like regular lawyers," one New York judge recently told a community lawyer. "You fellows have an obligation to avoid battling with the courts because you're with an organization." The attorneys believe otherwise. Some of the judges who are not used

to being challenged with briefs and citations and are in the habit of knocking heads together have been forced to crack open the law books for the first time in years. For they know that community attorneys do not stop at the lower courts and often take up cases to test on appeal.

As a result of such activity, more than a million and a half poor people—most of whom never entered a lawyer's office, private or public—have benefited from favorable and far-reaching court decisions initiated to challenge statutes and procedures that penalized the poor as poor. In the process, the community lawyers have won more than 70 per cent of their court trials, 60 per cent of their appeals, 72 per cent of their consumer-complaint cases and 79 per



cent of cases involving local, state and Federal administrative agencies. These decisions could be called the Law of the Poor—a concept unknown only a few years ago. For example, in Austin, Dallas and several other jurisdictions, community lawyers broke up home-improvement rackets that were bilking the poor of millions of dollars a year. In a series of 16 cases contesting the constitutionality of welfare-residence laws—which were so strongly condemned by the President's advisory commission on riots—community lawyers increased the income of jobless families by several million dollars. (Actually, all the poor got was what they were entitled to—a principle that has benefited nonplanting land-

(Continued on Page 122)

Six hundred thousand families have found a way to equality before the law through a Federal program bringing legal services to the poor. Typical of the young attorneys staffing community law offices is Nancy Le Blanc, above, associate director of New York's legal assistance program and an authority on housing law, at the East Third Street office. Top right, clients wait at the Rutgers Street office to see lawyer Candis Vengris, right.

New York Times photographs by SAM FALK



THE EPITOME OF LUXURY!

Satin Sheets and Pillowcases

As Used in the
Imperial and
Bridal Suites
of the
Conrad Hilton
Hotel



As kind to your body as a good night's sleep! Our luxurious Celanese® acetate satin sheets launder beautifully, come in nine elegant colors: Gold, Black, Pink, Blue, White, Lilac, Mint, Orchid, and now RED! NO LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF SETS YOU MAY ORDER! We are happy to be able to offer them at these astonishingly low prices!

REGULAR SATIN SHEET SETS ONLY

(Set consists of 2 straight sheets, 2 cases)

Double Bed Set	90x108	\$15.90
Twin Bed Set	72x108	15.90
Queen Bed Set	90x122½	19.45
King Bed Set	108x122½ (with standard cases)	20.65
King Bed Set	108x122½ (with king cases)	21.45
3 letter monogram on 2 cases		1.50

FITTED SATIN SHEET SETS

(Set consists of 1 fitted bottom sheet, 1 straight sheet, 2 cases)

Double Bed Set (Fitted sheet—54x74)	\$18.15
Twin Bed Set (Fitted sheet—39x76)	18.15
Queen Bed Set (Fitted sheet—60x80)	22.45
King Bed Set (Fitted sheet—72x84) with standard cases	24.65
King Bed Set (Fitted sheet—72x84) with king cases	25.45
Duo-Twin Bed Set (Fitted sheet—78x80) with standard cases	24.65
Duo-Twin Bed Set (Fitted sheet—78x80) with king cases	25.45

INDIVIDUAL PRICES:

1 Double Bed Fitted Sheet	54x74	\$10.00
1 Twin Bed Fitted Sheet	39x76	10.00
1 Queen Bed Fitted Sheet	60x80	12.25
1 King Bed Fitted Sheet	72x84	15.50
1 Duo-Twin Fitted Sheet	78x80	15.50
1 Pillowcase—Standard	45x36½	1.95
1 Pillowcase—King	45x42	2.35
1 Pillowcase—Bolster	45x54	3.15

Send check or money order. We ship promptly. Illinois residents, please add 5% sales tax. 50% deposit on all C.O.D.'s.

SCINTILLA, INC. SATIN SHOP

"Everything Exotic in Satin for Men and Women"

4802 N. Broadway — Dept. NT Chicago, Ill. 60640

(312) LO 1-4540 (312) 728-2590 (312) 728-2591

The storefront lawyer helps the poor

(Continued from Page 35)

owners and oil-industry operators who hire high-priced attorneys to get theirs from the Government through depletion allowances.)

Hundreds of everyday decisions have ended practices that formerly deprived the poor of millions of dollars annually. But it is a constant struggle on the philosophical level with some members of the bar and in government. It comes down to whether O.E.O.-funded lawyers can act as true advocates for clients in the same sense as a private attorney acts for a paying client, whether Federal funds can be used to support legal representation that inevitably must result in changes in the legal system.

In California when Gov. Ronald Reagan's administration reduced the services supplied under the state medical-aid program, a group of clients asked California Rural Legal Assistance lawyers for help. Some clients had had medical services terminated abruptly—teeth pulled but no dentures, stroke patients denied physiotherapy, near-blind children unable to obtain corrective lenses. The C.R.L.A. attorneys obtained a temporary restraining order halting the medical cutbacks. The Sacramento County Superior Court upheld the Modesto office of C.R.L.A. by granting the attorneys for the medically poor a permanent injunction against the cut-backs ordered by the state Health and Welfare Agency.

As a consequence, the emboldened

Modesto attorneys took on a case for a group of farm laborers whose jobs and incomes were threatened by an influx of *braceros*. These Mexican migrants themselves were heading for unsanitary camps maintained by the big growers. The conditions of the camps were exposed by Sheldon Greene, director of the Modesto office, and his attorneys, who obtained injunctive relief blocking the importation of the *braceros*. Then an agreement was worked out between C.R.L.A.'s clients and the Department of Labor that screened *bracero* applications so that imported migrants as well as permanent laborers were protected.

ONE-THIRD of O.E.O.'s legal services funding goes to the Northeastern region, covering New York, New Jersey and the New England states. P. Vaughan Gearan, the new, 31-year-old director of the Northeast region, started out in private practice in Fitchburg, Mass., after graduating from Georgetown Law School. Then he was elected president of the Fitchburg City Council, only to resign to become an attorney in the community law office that started up there. As director of the Fitchburg office giving aid to poor clients in three towns and rural areas, he provided legal backing for a tenant strike that withheld rents to obtain minimum housing standards.

The major achievement of the Fitchburg office was to incorporate an organization of welfare mothers



LOOKING FOR BUSINESS—If the poor won't come to the office, the office goes to the poor. New York's mobile unit is the first in the country.

THE EAR OPENER



Grundig cassette tape recorder... at an eye-opening sale price!

ONLY **\$89⁹⁵**
Sugg. list \$99.95

You never heard a richer sound from a compact cassette tape recorder/player. You never saw a handier way to tape-it-yourself or take along your favorite pre-recorded music. Grundig C-200 tapes live, from radio or phono with easy one-knob control. Price includes hi-performance, remote control microphone, stand, clip and cassette-cartridge, WITH FM, TOO! Grundig C-201-FM combines cassette recorder/player and FM radio. Sale price, \$119.95. (Sugg. list \$134.95). And while you drive—enjoy either set with optional car bracket and adapter.

GRUNDIG GRUNDIG ELECTRONIC SALES, INC. 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017
4225 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Cal. In Canada: Perfect Mfg. & Supp. Corp., Montreal
With Grundig, hearing is believing. At dealers listed:

NEW YORK—N.Y.C.
Eurotech Service
66-44 Forest Ave.,
Ridgewood

German Hi Fi Center
1574 Third Avenue
245 E. 86th Street
57-32 Myrtle Ave.,
Ridgewood

Leonard Radio
1163 Sixth Avenue

H. Mielke, Inc.
242 East 86th Street

Oscars Radio
112 Fulton St.

West German Stereo
1550 Third Ave.

Albany
Seiden Sound
79 Central Avenue

Mineola, Long Island
Gould Sales Co.
154 Mineola Blvd.

Middletown
Int. Stereo Showcase
206 North Street

Newburgh
House of Music
Midvalley Mall

Poughkeepsie
House of Music
Poughkeepsie Plaza

Syracuse
Q-Tronics
3461 East Erie Blvd.

MASS.—Cambridge
Lechmere Sales Co.
88 First Street

Dedham
Lechmere Sales Co.
688 Providence Hwy.

Leaminstor
Airport Sales & Supply
180 Crawford St.

Norwood
Camera Enterprises
858 Providence Hwy.

Worcester
Consumer Audionics
23 Foster Street

NEW JERSEY
Asbury Park
Dart Electronic Mart
1111 Highway No. 35

Bergenfield
Arco Appl. & TV
77 So. Washington Ave.

Newark
Midtown Camera Exch.
1186 Raymond Blvd.

Parts Unlimited
260 Washington Street

Palisade Park
SOS-TV
216 Broad Ave.

Pinebrook
West German Stereo
Rt. 46 Co. Hook & Mt. Rd.

PENNA.—Philadelphia
Nathan Muchnick
1215 Chestnut St.

RHODE ISL.—Pawtucket
Apex Inc.
495 Central Avenue

Warwick
Apex, Inc.
555 Greenwich Ave.

WASHINGTON, D.C.
German Hi Fi Center
930 Ninth St. N.W.
(cor. N.Y. Ave.)

and then represent them to see that they got what they were entitled to under the law. And when a restrictive welfare bill was almost certain of passage, Mr. Gearan and his welfare mothers succeeded in persuading the Massachusetts Legislature to write one of the most liberal and forward-looking state welfare laws.

IN the old melting-pot streets of New York's Lower East Side—at Mobilization for Youth, whose legal-services unit under Edward V. Sparer, now at Yale Law School and the nation's leading authority on legal protection for the indigent, blazed the first trails in this field—the poor are treated not as charity cases but as clients. That almost says it all; the dignity of the word underscores professional attitudes. Often they

66 Storefront lawyers have won 70 per cent of their court trials, 60 per cent of their appeals, 72 per cent of consumer complaint cases, 79 per cent of cases involving government agencies.99

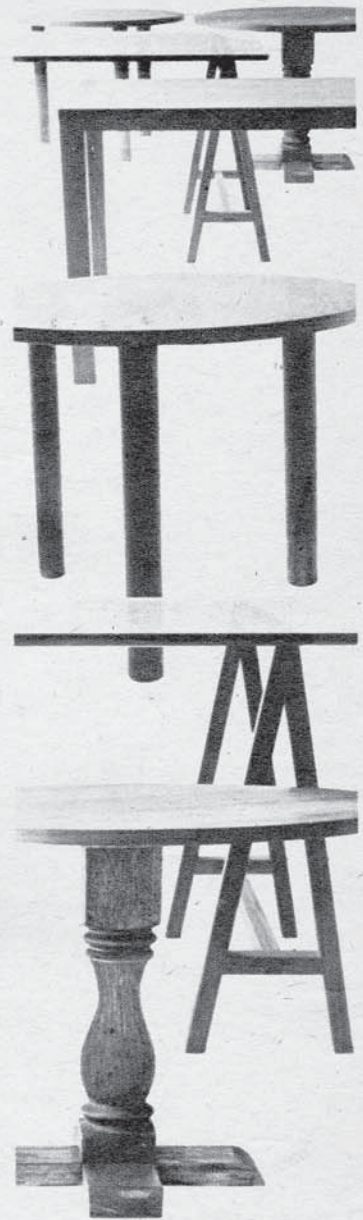
show up with a bilingual card in their hands reading:

"Si le detiene la policia . . . Cuales son sus derechos?"

And the question of what rights you have if arrested by the police is answered on the card: "You have the right to remain silent. . . . You have the right to have a lawyer immediately after you are arrested, and to make three phone calls from the police station. Ask to make these calls, and call your lawyer immediately. . . . If you can't afford a lawyer and you need legal advice call Mobilization for Youth—OR 7-0400—at any time of the day or night and ask for a lawyer."

Which may be a little better service than people who normally employ lawyers can expect, but there is awareness among the M.F.Y. attorneys that you have to reach out to people who are psychologically and often physically unable to make the trip to an impressive office somewhere uptown.

Inability to afford a lawyer is the only requirement of the clients who show up at 320 East Third Street, the main office; at 95 Delancey Street; at 759 10th Avenue, a new storefront on the West Side, or at 24 Rutgers Street. For most clients that means an income of up to \$3,000 a year (a maximum increased by \$500 for each dependent), although such factors as medical debt, un-



thousands of top ideas and base thoughts

You'll have an actuary's holiday figuring out the thousands of combinations we have available in table tops and bases. Tops come in wood (shown), glass, formica; bases in wood (shown), steel, aluminum finish. Come, compute, combine!

Bases shown:

Balustrade ————— \$49.95
Solid walnut horses \$35.00 ea.
Straight 4" round
or square legs ————— \$6.25 ea.
Parsons table,
walnut complete ————— \$99.95

Tops shown:

(on horse)
Glass 30" x 60" x ¾" ————— \$97
(on balustrade) 42"
round walnut ————— \$27.95
36" round walnut ————— \$19.95
ready to oil

door store

NEW YORK 210 E. 51 St., daily 10-7, Th. 10-9
Sat. 10-6, PL 3-2280 • 24 Greenwich Avenue,
daily 12-8, Sat. 10-6, WA 9-9292
REGO PARK, L.I., 66 Ave. & Austin St.,
daily incl. Sat. 9-5, (closed Tues.), BR 5-7272

Dine like a Dane



Feast well. Lavish your next burger with tingly, tempting Danish Blue cheese. Nothing gives sizzling beef a more delicious tang-up. One bite will prove that this marks the end of the

plain burger and the start of the Dane burger. Danish Blue adds zing to salads, casseroles too. So indulge: one Dane good feast deserves another. Try the other Danish cheeses, too.

Imported DANISH BLUE CHEESE
Cheeses from the Fairyland Dairyland of Denmark

be a Sweetree girl

It's the fitting thing to do.

Cardigan knit of 100% Acrilan® acrylic and Monsanto-guaranteed for a year's normal wear. Sizes 34 to 40. White, light blue, honey, mint, pink, lemon. \$10 at stores everywhere, or write Sweetree, 1407 Broadway, New York.



Ward Bennett designs furniture to create a new environment in which people live and work.



Ward Bennett Designs for Brickel Associates, Inc.
515 Madison Avenue, New York 10022.

steady work and forced high rent are taken into account. There is no shortage of legal business under these terms, and, interestingly, little resentment from the traditional neighborhood lawyers because their nonpaying and often difficult cases have been absorbed by M.F.Y.'s eager attorneys.

There may be no busier group of practitioners in the city. Every month they handle hundreds of cases involving criminal matters, housing, consumer frauds, social security, workmen's compensation, immigration and the family-law spectrum from custody to divorce. In 1967, more than 5,000 clients received individual legal service. And this does not include the representation provided to tenant groups and welfare recipients—the basic "bread and butter" cases in the offices. The practice here is part educational—of both clients and courts, neither of whom are accustomed to such intensive pleading on behalf of the poor.

IF you read the sign in the window of the Rutgers Street storefront (taking your pick of languages: Spanish, Chinese, English), then enter (without a lot of formality), you encounter most of the human frailties and legal entanglements. It is doubtful if the clients are aware that the four attorneys here are from the University of Chicago law school (two of them), Stanford and Harvard and are paid much less than they would get in the large law firms



SPECIALIST—Matters affecting New York's Chinese community are settled by Ping Lee, a legal social worker, who practiced in Taiwan before coming to the U. S.

SIX RINGS in one CHANGA STONE by Eternalight



An exciting new 14K gold ring idea (Pat. Pending) featuring six easily interchangeable colored stones. Changa-Stone to match your mood or mode. One ring with 6 genuine stones, \$65. Others from \$24. Your birthstone is available too, do you know yours?

Send 25¢ for color catalog, ring size card and the MAGIC OF BIRTHSTONES book and store nearest you (25¢ refunded on first purchase).

Eternalight DIAMOND CO., INC.

Dept. NYT-11, 48 West 48th St.
New York, N.Y. 10036

We run a Handbag Hospital.



Don't expect just a repair shop. We design and make our own bags to order. When we operate on a sick one, we guarantee all repairs for one year. If you still love that broken handbag, bring it in... while it's still breathing.

ArtBag

735 Madison Ave. (at 64th St.) N.Y. 22
RH 4-2720 Mail your bag if you like.
We'll mail back a free estimate.

To the poor, the law often means a pair of handcuffs

where many of their classmates are; or that the three law students (Michigan, N.Y.U. and Harvard) who helped them in the summer worked for pay of about \$80 a week, which is just above the poverty line.

Stephen Wizner (Dartmouth College, University of Chicago law school), who supervises the Rutgers Street office, started out as a Department of Justice lawyer in the Attorney General's honors program in Washington. After several years there as a prosecutor, Wizner came to New York. He worked as an attorney for the Center for Social Welfare Policy and Law at Columbia, then decided he liked dealing with flesh-and-blood clients and going to court—where he is two or three times a week.

ONE of Wizner's discoveries in this atmosphere is that there must be a recognition of ethnic differences in interpreting the meaning of cruel and inhuman treatment in a marriage. "For instance," he says, "among Puerto Rican couples it may take the form of physical violence. The same is true of Negro couples. In Jewish families, it might be a way of cooking or not raising children properly by failing to send them to Sunday school."

The clients at the Rutgers Street storefront are about evenly divided among the Spanish-speaking, the Chinese and Jews who have not been able to make it out of the old neighborhood or have remained because of small businesses which bring in little above the poverty level. One old Jewish woman who rarely left her block walked into the office because it was there. She had wanted to get an annulment for 13 years—and did—because of a bigamous marriage. And a 70-year-old man wandered over from Little Italy, with an operatic tale. He had returned to his old village after his first wife had died, had brought back a new one, and she had left him the moment after the ship sailed past the Statue of Liberty and docked. He wanted a divorce.

The attorneys handle many matters of administrative law outside the courts. A Chinese seaman comes in who has lost his papers because of an allegation that he used opium. A workman wants to get his pass restored by the Waterfront Commission. Many of the matters involving the Chinese are settled in the office by Ping Lee, a legal social worker employed by M.F.Y., who practiced in Taiwan before coming to the United States.

"The myth that the Chinese people take care of their own cases is not so," Wizner says. "There are not

"I'LL HAVE DRY SACK ON THE ROCKS"

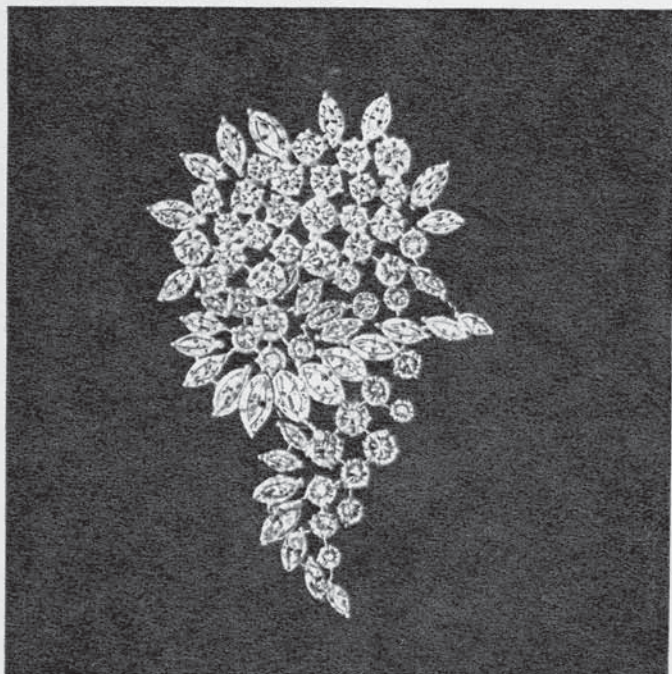


Dry Sack on-the-rocks is a great drink before lunch or dinner. Dry Sack has the body and superb nutty flavor to stand up to ice cubes. No wonder Dry Sack on-the-rocks, the man's sherry, is so popular.

World-Famous Sherries From Spain
WILLIAMS & HUMBERT
DRY SACK

 NEW YORK Let this seal be your guide to quality

78 DIAMOND SPRAY FROM THE MARSH 60TH ANNIVERSARY COLLECTION.



Delicately designed in platinum this pin is exquisitely set with 44 Round diamonds and 34 Marquise with a total weight of 16.75 carats. \$8575. Actual size

S. Marsh & Sons
FINE JEWELERS & SILVERSMITHS SINCE 1908

Newark, New Jersey: 189 Market Street.
Millburn, New Jersey: 265 Millburn Avenue.

THE CARETAKERS



Gracious, how spacious. The St. Thomas Duo: 3-part leather-covered French purse boasts a roomy coin purse and special pull-out pocket for bill withdrawal. Double cash compartment, one zippered; and pull-out card case takes care of the rest of your assets. Supple saddle-cowhide in fashion colors, from \$6. At Filene's, Boston; Julius Garfinckel & Co., Washington, D. C. and branches; B. Altman & Co., New York and branches.

ST. THOMAS
St. Thomas Inc., St. Thomas Place, Gloversville, N. Y.

many Chinese on welfare but many are poor. They have their problems, too, and Ping Lee often settles them amicably—after some shouting back and forth—right here in our offices. They prefer that to the loss of public face in a courtroom.

"But all our clients have the standard complaints as consumers, tenants and welfare recipients. The poor have all the afflictions and sometimes a few more that need counseling. Of course, we don't get the problems of uptown clients—how my corporation can purchase the assets of your corporation. But we try just as hard. I knew I had arrived when a judge in Family Court recently accused me of being too aggressive on behalf of my client."

MAJOR criminal and housing cases are usually handled by Harold J. Rothwax, M.F.Y.'s director of legal services, and Nancy E. Le Blanc, the

“What criminal cases reveal

especially is that there is

one law for the poor, another for the

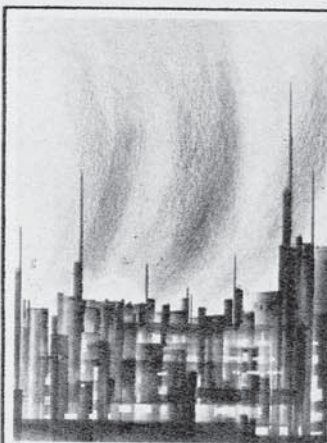
organized criminal with the

expensive, name lawyers.”

associate director, at the East Third Street office. A sign says: *Servicios Legales de la Mobilization*. It overhangs a sickly colored greenstone building (as distinct from the brownstones uptown) that includes a ground-floor storefront without the store office. The clients walk up a flight of steps and enter one of the modest cubicles where, rugless and windowless, some of the brightest attorneys in New York listen to their problems. Considering the great number of cases, the service here is remarkably rapid. There are no batteries of receptionists, secretaries and associates, no need to put up a good front to impress the clients.

"We try to make the contact between lawyer and client a personal one," says Mr. Rothwax (Yale and Columbia Law). "Whenever possible, appointments are made to avoid long waits—the long waiting line is the hallmark of charity and paternalism. We're very much aware that the man or woman who waits with a crisis has his or her sense of dependency enforced. If a poor person is entitled to legal service, it should be as a matter of right and not as a favor. He must feel that the law can be used as an instrument of improvement and change. Otherwise, he won't turn to the law."

What the criminal cases especially



FLORSHEIM

collect Signed original etchings and lithographs by America's foremost artists

Associated American Artists, America's largest dealer in original prints, invites you to browse... Our program enables you to acquire original works of art for as little as \$10.00. And our roster includes such names as Raphael Soyer, Jacob Landau and Richard Florsheim!

FREE: 40 page catalog with 50 illustrations, advice for the beginning collector and an article on the techniques of printmaking. (Please send 25¢ for postage and handling.)

Associated American Artists
663 Fifth Ave., New York 10022, Studio 111

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

HOME COOKED CREOLE DELICACIES FROM OLD NEW ORLEANS STRAWBERRY PRESERVES

Fraise de la Louisiane, sun-ripened whole fruit in a pure preserve of incomparable flavor. Reusable family size white pine pail or brass-banded redwood planter. Lots of good eating.



2 1/2 lb. Pine Pail \$5.98 ppd.
2 1/2 lb. Redwood Planter \$6.98 ppd.

CREOLE SOUPS

Culinary secrets of generations of French chefs are in these delicious New Orleans seafoods. Gumbo, crayfish bisque, turtle soup, shrimp creole.



8 10 oz. Cans \$6.75 ppd.
12 10 oz. Cans \$12.15 ppd.

*For crayfish bisque only add 10¢ per tin.

PECAN PRALINES

Delectable, creamy plantation-style pecan confection made fresh to order. Also available in rum or chocolate flavors, or chewy type. Specify choice.



1 lb. box of 12 \$3.25 ppd.

Write for List of Gift Packages of Famous Donut Mix, French Pastries, Hickory Smoked Hams, specially boxed Fruit Cakes, aSucas, and other creole delicacies.

CREOLE DELICACIES CO., INC.
533-T Saint Ann St., New Orleans, La. 70116

reveal is that there is one law for the poor, another for the organized criminals with the expensive name lawyers who go on television and get their pictures in magazines. To the poor, the law often appears as a racial standoff, a language barrier, a pair of handcuffs. When a man is caught in the machinery of the police and the law, everything in his life can collapse.

A father of five children has been a factory worker for six years. He has no criminal record. One night he is arrested for disorderly conduct and malicious mischief, and the court sets the bail at \$1,000. He cannot pay it, remains in jail for two weeks and loses his job. Mr. Rothwax points out that the whole system of bail militates against the poor, some of whom cannot put together even \$10 or \$20. The result sometimes is a modern version of the Dickensian debtors' prison.

Material-witness jailings are particularly ugly for the poor. A man is shot to death on the Lower East Side, and a youth, later found innocent, is arrested and charged with possession of the murder weapon. The District Attorney says he is not ready for a hearing and the judge refuses to demand that the D.A. show cause for the delay. After the youth is held for five days—in violation of the law—the case is dismissed. But the judge then decides, without a hearing, to hold the youth as a material witness and sends him to a jail for civil-law cases. A Mobilization for Youth attorney who has been handling the case is refused permission to see his client without the D.A.'s consent. Finally, a hearing is obtained, which has been the youth's legal right from the beginning. "The courts can violate the law," Mr. Rothwax says, "and only militant advocates can protect the legal rights of clients."

PRACTICING on the Lower East Side, as in other areas where the indigent do not always put their best legal foot forward, the attorneys watch their own behavior and appearance. "We aren't as completely free in our dress as our clients," Rothwax says. "I asked one of our attorneys not to wear a big cowboy hat while entering the court because it might be prejudicial." Martin Spiegel (Tufts, Columbia Law) advised one of his East Village clients to please wear a shirt and tie in criminal court. "He did," Spiegel says, "but he also put on beads and wore flowers in his hair."

Although the cases are often as unusual as the clients, the attorneys here find themselves in both general and special practice. Miss Le Blanc (Mills College, Yale Law) has become one of the country's leading authorities on housing law. She had worked for a small, prestigious law firm off Fifth Avenue as an underpaid attorney when she decided that



Look at a STEINWAY with your EAR

What you see with your eye, handsome as it is, is not what makes a Steinway, a Steinway. It's the sound that's unique.

The Diaphragmatic® Soundboard was invented and is patented by Steinway & Sons. It is precisely constructed to taper in thickness from center to edges, much like the tuned skin of a kettle drum. This design swells the sound of the vibrating string to a full, resounding tone. No one has yet devised a suitable copy or even a substitute.

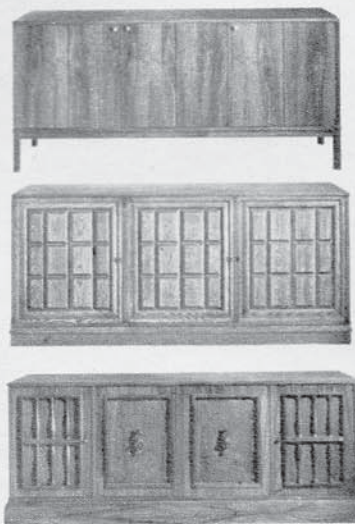
This sound of Steinway is the reason almost every great pianist you can think of will play no other piano. It can make you sound good, too.

WRITE FOR INFORMATION

STEINWAY & SONS 109 W. 57th STREET, NEW YORK • CI 6-1100

FURN-a-KIT

MAKES THE DIFFERENCE



Designed by Robert Fellner & Mark J. Furst

PRICE
STYLE
QUALITY
CUSTOM

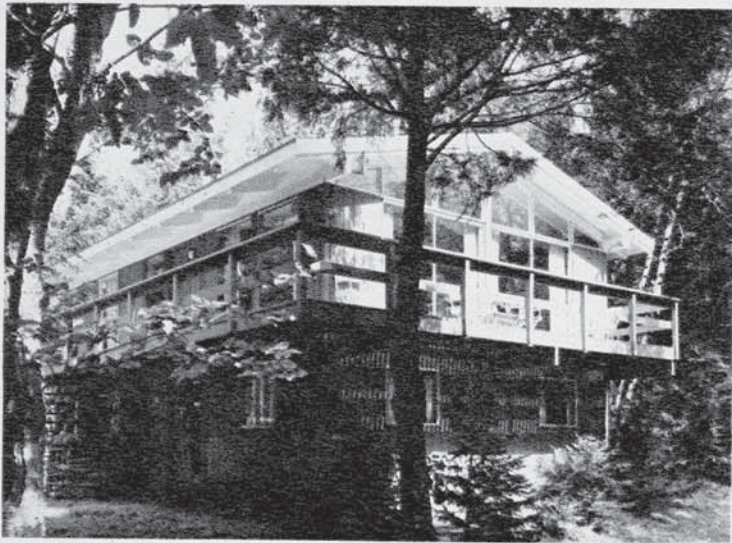
No special talent is required... all you need is a screwdriver! You'd never believe that such beautiful furniture could be so easy and such fun to make... hi-fi cabinetry, wall systems, book cases, groupings, etc. You've seen similar furniture in exclusive decorator shops — now you can make your own at home for a fraction of the cost. Professional results guaranteed. For your 52 page Furn-a-Kit catalog, send 50¢ to Dept. T 1110, Bronx showroom, (or purchase it at any of our showrooms.)

FURN-a-KIT®

BRONX: 1308 Edward L. Grant H'way, Bronx, N. Y. 10452
CONN. 1779 E. State St. (opp. Barker's) Westport
2458 Albany Avenue, West Hartford
NEW YORK CITY: 151 East 53rd Street

LONG ISLAND: 315 Rte. 110 (opp. Korvette's) Huntington
350 Sunrise Highway, Rockville Centre
NEW JERSEY: 885 Route 22, North Plainfield
636 Route 17, Paramus

All Showrooms Open Veterans Day



put
yourself
in the
picture

Stanmar is the world's oldest designer and builder of summer or winterized vacation homes. Prices, from \$6500, include all supplies and construction on your site.

Complete your picture of vacation, holiday or weekend fun with an award-winning Stanmar design.

Look them over in our large detailed catalog. To receive your catalog, and the location of your Stanmar Field Service Office, send this coupon and \$1.00 to:



Dept. 7302 **stanmar** EST. 1913
Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776

Enclosed is \$1.00 for your 1968 Vacation Homes Catalog No. 7302

Name _____ I own a vacation homesite
Street _____ Yes No
City _____ Location _____
State _____ Zip _____ I would like to speak to a Stanmar
Phone _____ Consultant in my home — Free of
charge. Approx. date _____

CREMA DANIA.
Why so much talk about it? Taste for yourself why cheese lovers and food editors everywhere recommend this unsurpassed cheese from Denmark. Now at fine food stores and departments, many supermarkets.



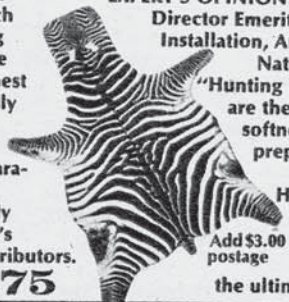
For those near you, write:
Otto Roth & Co., Inc.
179 Duane St., NYC 10013



AFRICAN ZEBRA RUG

Now you can add the professional designer's touch to your foyer, den, living room or executive office with the assurance of finest quality at an exceptionally low price. Collected by licensed hunters under strict regulation. Comparable value over \$350. Our price is possible only because we are America's foremost mail order distributors. Average length 8' **\$175**

EXPERT'S OPINION: Dr. James L. Clark, Director Emeritus of Preparation & Installation, American Museum of Natural History, writes: "Hunting World's zebra skins are the acme of durability, softness and lustre. Their preparation is the finest I have ever seen."
HUNTING WORLD'S ELEPHANT TRADEMARK is your assurance of the ultimate in quality



Satisfaction Guaranteed N.Y. Residents Add Tax
VISIT OUR "SAFARILAND"™ SHOWROOM
OR WRITE FOR FREE 76-PAGE CATALOG

HUNTING WORLD Dept. TM
247 EAST 50th STREET, NEW YORK 10022



FOR THE DEFENSE—Major criminal cases are handled by Harold J. Rothwax, the director of Mobilization for Youth legal services in New York. "If a poor person is entitled to help, it should be as a matter of right, not as a favor."

protecting the estates of little old ladies was not her cup of tea (which was indeed served to clients in that office). Now she argues for tenants in the slums as if they were owners of Park Avenue cooperatives.

Of Miss Le Blanc, whose 51-page handbook on landlord-tenant law is widely used (it describes the law in the City of New York as it affects tenants who live in slum housing), one of the Civil Court judges who would prefer more timid attorneys for the poor told his clerk, "If you see her coming, duck."

To make sure that the legal indigent are being reached in the New York area, M.F.Y. even reaches out to them with the first mobile "storefront" law office of its kind in the United States. It is a camping truck that parks for a week at a time on blocks distant from the regular offices. Before it wheels up, leaflets are distributed saying where the truck will be parked and inviting a discussion of legal problems by those who cannot afford a lawyer. The truck has room for a driver, attorney, secretary, a couch for the client and a telephone for the lawyer on duty.

"Sometimes it only takes a phone call to settle a matter on the spot for a client," one of the attorneys says. "For instance, we can usually get a marshal to hold up a notice of eviction. More often, we make the phone call from a nearby booth because it's less expensive. On more complicated matters we send clients around to

the regular offices. The mobile legal unit serves as good publicity for the neighborhood storefronts. It's still a little unbelievable to people. When I was on duty one week, a woman came in who wanted to know if this is the truck where she could get a chest X-ray."

THE storefront lawyers, while appraising clients of their rights, have also made the indigent more aware of such traditional and important organizations as the Legal Aid Society. In New York City, additional legal corporations are being set up through Community Action for Legal Services to operate in 10 slum neighborhoods. The O.E.O. regional office will underwrite 80 per cent of the cost. The executive director of C.A.L.S., John DeWitt Gregory, has recruited some of the brightest men coming out of the law schools and even private practice. "In money terms we can't expect to be competitive with the large law firms," he says, "but we can be in human terms."

For what the attorneys giving their all really seek is a piece of the social revolution, a chance to apply their professionalism in the frontlines of legal deprivation. They have chosen to operate out of storefronts in the slums or as itinerant lawyers defending the migrants and the people living in the shacks in rural America because this is where the new awareness is, where dreams unheard of till now can be recognized as legal rights. ■

U.S. AND CITY OPEN 12.6-MILLION WAR ON DELINQUENCY

3-Year Plan Aims to Reform
Entire Lower East Side
as Example to Nation

By **MARJORIE HUNTER**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 31—President Kennedy announced today a \$12,600,000 mass social experiment on the Lower East side of New York. It is part of a program designed to strike eventually at the roots of the national juvenile delinquency problem.

The three-year project, called Mobilization for Youth, will be financed jointly by Federal, city and private funds. It was called "the most advanced program yet devised to combat delinquency on a broad scale."

The announcement was made in the White House garden, just outside the President's office. Attending the ceremony were Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, chairman of the President's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency; Abraham A. Ribicoff, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare; Secretary of Labor Arthur Goldberg, Mayor Wagner and members of the New York Congressional delegation.

'Action by All' Urged

The President said juvenile delinquency was a "matter which requires action by us all in this decade."

Using the Lower East Side area as a giant laboratory, project officials will seek to reform the social patterns of an entire community as a way of guiding youth into conforming with the accepted patterns of American life.

They will cover a broad range of social activities, from organizing the play of 7-year-olds to examining the political structure and community attitudes of adults.

There will be an Urban Youth Service Corps to provide jobs for 16-to-21 year olds, an Adventure Corps on paramilitary lines for boys 9 to 16, "cool and jazzy" coffee shops featuring art and folk music, and improved welfare services to "troubled" families.

Special Programs Set

And there will be special school programs for both youths and adults, community development programs, a narcotics demonstration project, and a program to rehabilitate juvenile offenders.

The project is based on a theory, developed by Mobilization for Youth, Inc. of 214 East Second Street, New York City, that there must be a systematic approach to the problems of juvenile delinquency.

The administrative director of the project will be James E. McCarthy, a 45-year-old graduate of the University of Notre Dame who has specialized in youth and social work.

Officials here said that the Federal and state funds for the project would be available July 1 and that the program would

Continued on Page 14, Column 1

U.S. AND CITY OPEN YOUTH-CRIME WAR

Continued from Page 1, Column 4

under way this summer. They said they hoped to begin the educational phases of the program with the opening of school in September and to have the entire project under way by late fall.

In a 617-page outline of the project, Mobilization for Youth called it an effort to "bring together the acionist and the researcher in a joint program of social engineering."

The theory is that the central factor controlling whether young people follow accepted behavior standards in the opportunity presented to them. The program is organized to improve opportunities for youth and guide young people into pursuing them.

Summing that up, Attorney General Kennedy said underprivileged youth must be given "a stake in conformity if they are to accept the normal values of society."

Mayor Wagner said the project was intended to enlist new forces to attack "the continuing rise in delinquency, through preventive action that offers young people expanded social, educational and job opportunities."

One of Worst Areas

He noted that within the last thirty years public and publicly aided housing had provided new homes for 60,000 residents of the lower East Side and that in the last eight years space for 10,000 students had been added in the schools.

"Despite all that we have done and in spite of all the good that has come from all that we have done, there are still some gnawing problems in the area which require accelerated and increased effort," he said.

The project area, with a population of about 107,000, has one of the worst juvenile delinquency records in New York City.

The New York City Youth Board reported recently that delinquency offenses for each 1,000 youths between 7 and 20 years old in the area rose from 28.7 in 1951 to 62.8 in 1960, an increase of 118 per cent. During the same period the over-all increase in the city was 110.9 per cent. The delinquency rate in the city is 41 for each 1,000.

The project area is bounded by East Fourteenth Street, the East River, Brooklyn Bridge, St. James Place, Pearl Street, Park Row, Chatham Square, Division Street, Canal Street, Rutgers Street, East Broadway, Clinton Street and Avenue B.

A survey indicated the following population groups: Jewish, 27 per cent; Puerto Rican, 26 per cent; Italian, 11 per cent; other white, 25 per cent; Negro, 8 per cent, and other non-white, 3 per cent.

The survey also showed that 35.6 per cent of the housing in the area was substandard and 28.5 per cent more overcrowded; that the average family income was \$68.92 a week, and that only 14.9 per cent of the adults had completed high school.

Two Years of Planning

The project follows two years of planning by Mobilization for Youth, Inc., a nonprofit corporation headed by Winslow Carlton of the Henry Street Settlement.

Mayor Wagner announced that New York City would contribute \$1,400,000 to the project for the first year and an estimated total of \$4,500,000 for the entire three-year period.

Federal contributions are a three-year grant of \$1,900,000 from the President's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and a one-year grant of \$1,500,000 from the National Institute of Mental Health, Public Health Services.

The remaining funds will come from foundations and private sources.

Much of the work will be carried out by existing groups, such as settlement houses, welfare agencies, religious organizations, civic clubs and the New York School of Social Work of Columbia University.

Job Help Slated

One phase of the project will seek to create new jobs and find existing work through these programs:

¶ Urban Youth Service Corps, to hire about 1,000 unemployed, out-of-school youths and pay them \$1 an hour for up to thirty-five hours a week. They will repair tenements, construct playgrounds, manufacture toys, repair furniture, beautify the neighborhood and serve as aides in public and nonprofit private institutions.

¶ Youth Jobs Center, an employment agency for counseling and job placement.

¶ Exploratory work course, to be offered in junior high schools to inform students of job possibilities and requirements.

Another project phase will be to meet the problems of "slum children in slum schools" through these programs:

¶ Home visits by teachers.

¶ A planning committee to develop a curriculum for slum schools.

¶ Reading centers in all elementary schools and reading clinics in two elementary schools.

¶ Experimental classes for retarded children.

¶ A homework helper program, with 300 good high school students being paid to tutor failing elementary school pupils.

Recreation and community development programs will include the following:

¶ Three coffeeshops, furnished and staffed by young people, to serve refreshments and feature folk music, art, sculpture and other cultural activities.

¶ An Adventure Corps for boys 9 to 16 to provide marching bands, educational programs, camping, athletics and vocational training. The boys will be organized in jacket-uniformed squads of twenty to twenty-five, six or seven squads to a division. Two divisions of 150 boys each are contemplated.

¶ Neighborhood service centers, or helping tations, to offer case-work service for families with special problems.

¶ Neighborhood councils, to develop community development programs.

Narcotics Program Due

In addition a pilot narcotics demonstration program will work with fifty or so teenaged and young adult addicts. It will offer psychiatric medical and social services and provide job training and placement services.

The project will study the strength of the city political machines over the last thirty years. Project planners expect to find that political machine strength has increased in middle-class areas and decreased in lower-class districts.

"The machine is no longer dealing with persons whose only barter goods are their individual votes," the Mobilization for Youth outline says. "Persons with higher status tend to organize the resources in their community, which gives them a position from which they can bargain."

"Instead of the previous parent relationship between machine and voter, a contract is negotiated in which representatives of middle-class communities offer to deliver a body of votes in return for a larger slice of the political pie."

The entire project also will include a large-scale training program in the behavioral sciences, including social work, sociology, education, psychology and research. This training program will be coordinated by Columbia University.

The President's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency, authorized last year by Congress, has authority to spend \$30,000,000 over a three-year period.

New York City is the first to get a demonstration project grant.

However, the committee has made grants for planning of projects in New Haven, Cleveland, Houston, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Minneapolis.