

Explosions

May 31/95

Introduction to Africville
Presentation to the Canadian
Labour Congress,
Ottawa, Ontario

Introduction of Eddie and Africville

A "PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE"

- While Eddie is going to provide us with an personal account of the struggles of his community, it is important to place the Africville experience in a larger context.
- history has revealed a pattern of exploitation of powerless communities by governments throughout the world.
- tragically, the forced relocation of the residents of Africville is part of larger pattern of relocation of powerless groups by governments in Canada and the rest of the world.
- the injustice done to the community of Africville must be seen in the context of similar relocation efforts such as the relocation of the Innu people of Northern Labrador (Davis Inlet), or the forced relocation of the Bantu

people in South Africa.

- these are just two recognizable examples of governments abusing their power to forcibly relocate people in order to satisfy their own political and economic interests.

- history has shown that these plans have been initiated not out of concern for the people or their communities, but out of the desire to:

- (1) acquire the land that those communities happen to occupy and
- (2) the desire to save money by forcing people to come closer to the services they are entitled to rather than extending the services which the government has an obligation to provide.

~~✗~~ - essentially the struggle/protest of Eddie and Victor Carvery and the entire Africville community, is one which seeks to check any further abuse of power and to force local, national, and global political leaders to recognize the injustices done to these communities throughout the world.

INSTITUTIONAL RACISM ~~✗~~

- any discussion of the Africville struggle must also be seen in the context of institutional racism.

- in the last 50 years this type of racism has displaced the more overt types of racism which characterized the era of slavery and segregation.

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~~the~~ the forced relocation of the residents of Africville must be viewed as the manifestation of institutional racism.

- as the experience of Africville has shown this type of racism spares none of the consequences of more overt racism.

- the parallels between the forced relocation of Africville in the 1960's and the efforts of the City to relocate Eddie and Victor Carvery's protest in 1995 reveals that institutional racism continues to threaten the community of Africville.

- the same strategy of bribery, intimidation and expropriation which characterized the first relocation is being repeated by the city in their attempt to remove the peaceful protest of Eddie and Victor.

~~the~~ the same rhetoric used by the City of Halifax to describe the so-called "slum" of Africville is being used by City councillors in 1995 to justify the removal of the "unsightly" protest camp of Eddie and Victor.

- the threats of fines and forcible removal which now face Eddie and Victor, recall the same intimidation the bulldozers posed to the residents of Africville in the 1960's.

~~the~~ - the importance of Eddie and Victor's struggle lies in the fact that as Canadians working for social justice, we have a responsibility to ensure that

the injustices done in the past are not repeated.

- to ensure that there will be no more Africvilles.

If faced with the question of what do the former residents of Africville want.

- there have been many suggestions by the former residents of Africville and others in the black community including:

- the land back
- adequate compensation for loss of land, personal losses, community losses
- a public inquiry.
- and acknowledgement of racism
- recognition of Africville as a community
- other land
- a reassessment of the land
- the revenue from the land use.

- one thing which unifies these diverse demands is the sense that there remains a sense of loss which has yet to be addressed by the City.

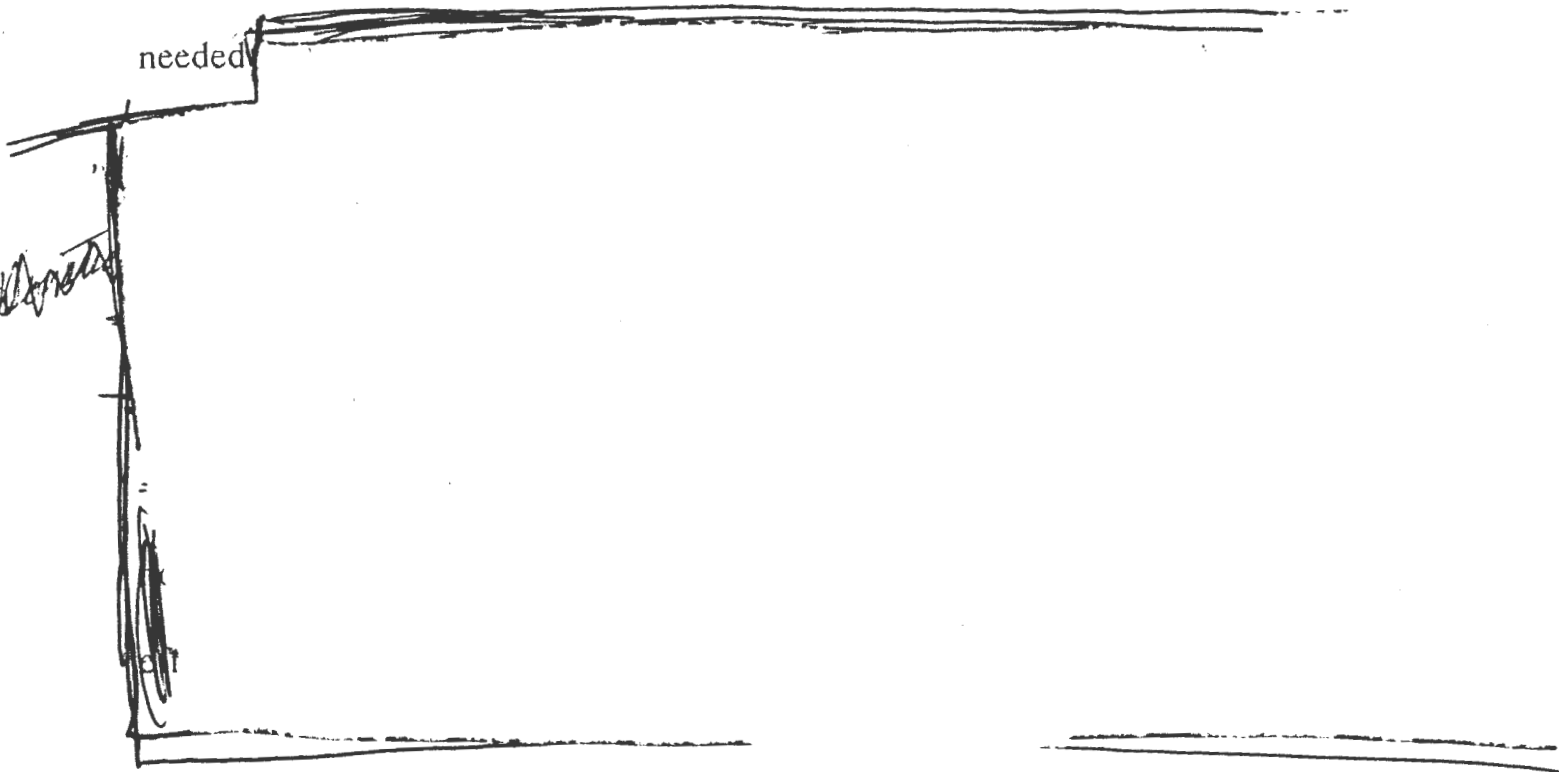
- given the myriad of demands what is perhaps most needed is a forum

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through which the residents of Africville could explore the possibilities for compensation of the loss of their community.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING OF THE CLC:

1. Money --> certainly financial support of the Africville protest is needed



2. Bodies -- numerical support for any demonstration/tent city which may arise leading up to the G-7.

3. CLC Expertise - when it comes to organizing a demonstration as part of the P-7. - their expertise when it come to strategies, media handling,

mobilizing supporters.

4. Assistance in the dissemination of information concerning the issue of Africville - use their network to promote the issue of Africville and its place in the larger context.

5. Initiate a letter writing campaign within their membership calling for a public inquiry by the Nova Scotia government into the Africville issue.

donations

c/o Dalhousie Legal Aid
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