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Box 82, Folder 6, Ethnic project, 1974-1975.

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Proposal

for a study of Coalition-building Strategies in Three Mid-western Cities

Submitted to

The National Project on Ethnic America of the American Jewish Committee, Mr. Irving Levine, Director

Submitted by

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The purpose of this proposal is to make possible a brief study of three midwestern urban centers: Milwaukee, Chicago, Minneapolis-St. Paul, for the purpose of identifying and describing current examples of coalition-building among urban citizens around issues that transcend the interests of the individual groups.

These three cities are chosen not only for their geographic proximity but because of the quality of their citizens organizations, and for the fact that their community building efforts are based on shared interests more than on mere geographical relationships. Also, these major metropolitan areas are within one multi-state regional area, an important reality in an era of revenue sharing and the increasing importance of state governments.

My on-going study of the literature of citizens organizations over the last twenty-five years reveals very little information about coalition-building among a diversity of citizen organizations. The main examples are in the field of labor unions and local party politics.

References are made to coalitions as a political strategy in the "classical" treatments of city politics and in the power structure analyses of urban communities by sociologists and urban government experts, such as, Edward Banfield, James Q. Wilson, C. Wright Mills, Floyd Hunter and others.

Shortliffe's book, Rules for Radicals, began laying out an emphasis on coalitions of middle class and non-majority citizens groups as a necessary means to bring about an effective share in decision making in the corporate state.

Several smaller papers have been written in recent years, (e.g.: White Racism in a Particular Urban Scene, Holt, Stanley. Chicago. Organization