

HDTS: THE CRUCIAL MANEUVER

During the course of the last several weeks, it has become obvious to us in Operations that the HDTS is crucial to our edge which is in human development. We had been assuming that our major task this year was the enablement of the awakening campaign and the development of signal demonstration communities, and we still think that that is absolutely crucial. However, in doing our quarter's maneuvers it became clear to us that the key contradiction that we are facing right now is the training contradiction -- that is, how to turn over to the core of the community the task of human development. And this is true not just for the human development projects around the country but is also true of those places where we are preparing to do signal demonstration communities. For if we are not clear how to develop a strong core leadership in HDP's where we are working directly, then we surely won't know how to do that job in demonstration communities where we are less directly involved.

Moreover, this training contradiction is not just "out there", it is also one that we face within our body. When we started the US 12 we were all clear that we had spread ourselves painfully thin in numbers, experience, and depth. Nevertheless, we committed ourselves to launching these projects with the vision that within two years there would be catalyzed the resident core that would carry forward these projects. Now, because we were just getting the projects underway and because of the outside pressures that we had on us, we were unable to move directly on this contradiction last year. This year, however, the projects have a kind of maturity and our auxiliary have a year and a half of experience in the field, which indicate that it would be advantageous to move this year.

We have learned a phenomenal amount in the last year and a half about doing projects but we have not had the opportunity, including the GRA's, to really put this together. The HDTS will offer us the opportunity to do this kind of intensive interchange. Without this we will find ourselves individually butting our heads against a brick wall for much of the year in much the same way that we were in doing Town Meetings previous to Oklahoma 100. If you remember that campaign, very few of us were enthusiastic about it; we were all slogging along with the 8 hour Town Meeting and getting nowhere. But then, after a lot of very painful sacrifices, we sent people to Oklahoma who forced the breakthrough in Town Meeting methodology and then went back to our regions where we really broke through with county coverage.

We are convinced that we can do that same kind of job now in the whole arena of movement formation, or training up of troops. We think the key to this happening is having both project priorship and core community residents in the school. There are several reasons for this. First, the fall school's purpose is to hone the curriculum that will be used for modules in local communities during the third quarter, and for the three week mobile schools that will be widely available quarter four. Second, we need to have a strong, fairly wide based faculty for the conducting of these school. It is only people with field experience that will be able to provide that kind of critique of the school and to make suggestions for the school's restructuring and refinement.

Third, let me say here that we will not get our job done if we have only highly literate or order trained participants in the school. We need a large contingent of participants whose main education is practical life experience. They will hold us accountable to what we think is the key to the school and that is imaginal simplicity. This is what we learned from India. However, at the same time we need experienced movemental troops who will hold the school accountable to those images being profound. Finally, there is a very practical reason for the presence of the project priors presence. Last year we discovered that those people who made it through the school were those where at least one of the project auxiliary and at least two of the community residents came together where they were able to bolster one another and keep one another going. Now where that happened, the school worked remarkably well, even on our first attempt. For instance one participant who had never completed a task in his life got excited by the school, decided to stay for the full eight weeks, and became key to the social development when he returned to his community.

Key project auxiliary are already committed to be faculty for the school. Carlos Ollison has maneuvered to get out from under the incredible weight of huge grants in the economic arena in order to be a dean for the entire school. Charlene Powell will be coming from Gibson which is one of the projects furthestest down the road toward transition. Kit Krauss is coming from Lorimor as well as all of his auxiliary for four week periods in addition to the community residents. In addition the area priors have seen this school as crucial enough to where all of the six area prior families will be represented in the school. In addition Ruth Carter and Verdell Trice are committed to the school as key leadership of 5th City. This points to a new level of commitment that is happening in 5th City. There is a kind of grassroots movement going on that we think will excite HDTS participants. The Program Center itself is in the process of undergoing extensive renovations and will be a fine facility for the school. In addition there is the financial advantage of the proposed CSA grant. We have rewritten this grant to meet the criteria we now are committed to and the grant will give us helpful financing in doing the job that we intent to do regardless.

In summary we are convinced that the HDTS is key to our breaking through the key contradiction that we face with core development and with project transition. And without strong representation from both the auxiliary and core residents from the projects and from signal communities around the regions, we cannot make the breakthrough that we need. With this participation, which we now think is well underway, we will be able to deliver on the task of authentic transition in this continent by next summer.