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In spite of strong opposition by a number of community groups in Germantown and Mount Airy, officials of the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority have closed down their Germantown office, moving all files and staff members to the Nicetown office at 4233 Germantown Ave.

The Germantown office, located in the Maplewood Mall near Germantown and Chelten Aves., was used by community groups as a base for community relations and to aid with the relocation and rehabilitation process.

"WE ARE A community just beginning to see the edges of our deterioration, and we just don't want that to happen," said Eversley Vaughan, president of East Mount Airy Neighbors, explaining why his organization opposed the move.

"It is penny-wise and pound-foolish to move the Redevelopment Authority office out of our area at a time when these things are beginning to happen."

Michael Arno, deputy executive director of development for the Authority, explained the reason for the move thusly: "Most of our site offices are for the convenience of having our employees close to the urban renewal areas," he said.

"ONLY A SMALL number of people come in off the street to use the office, so we're tightening up our administrative control and moving back to the regional office concept. It was decided to move the office to Nicetown for better supervisory control."

However, David C. Polk, co-chairman of the Central Germantown Project Area Committee, insisted that the office could be very important as a place where community groups could communicate their feelings to Authority personnel, and vice-versa.

"We have had a lack of communication in the past," he stated. "Authority personnel and planning people were not aware of community needs. Through organizations like ours, though, we could maintain a working relationship that would be of tremendous benefit to both the Authority and the community."

Another thing that upset the community was the fact that a letter was sent early in December to Mayor Rizzo requesting his help in keeping the Germantown office open.

A WEEK LATER Polk received a letter from Rizzo stating that Deputy Mayor Phillip Carroll would meet with them December 16 at 1234 Market St. East to discuss the matter.

However, when community representatives showed up for the meeting along with Authority workers, no representatives from the Mayor's office showed up. A spokesman for Rizzo later said there had been a "misunderstanding," and the day after the meeting the office was closed.

Many community activists were angered by the Mayor's about-face, charging that "it's obvious he has nothing but contempt for us."

Lillian Holliday, president of South Morton Project Area Committee, said the closing of the office will not represent a saving, as the city claims, insisting that many other area buildings owned by the Authority have been vacant for years. "They're leaving us high and dry," she declared. "We oppose very, very strongly the moving of this site office."

ROBERT GREEN, 28, who charged that he was beaten and shot by a police officer in one of the Tribune stories of 1974, became ill as he was being interviewed for that story in the newspaper's office the day he came out of the hospital. The North Philadelphia man passed out and police were called. Here two officers are shown assisting him in the Tribune building. He was taken to Graduate Hospital where he was treated and later released.

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