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## CIC Director Examines Encampments of the Poor

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# NEWS RELEASE



# University of San Diego

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

DE SALES HALL  
ALCALA PARK  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92110  
TELEPHONE (714) 295-2145

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## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CIC DIRECTOR EXAMINES ENCAMPMENTS OF THE POOR

SAN DIEGO, Calif.--The middle class functions as a "delivery system" for the poor, according to Carrol Waymon. The affluent decide what programs and assistance are best for the poor without asking them if they "need it, want it, or will use it."

The second lecture in the "Cities in Crisis" series was given at the University of San Diego by Waymon, Director of the Citizens' Interracial Committee of San Diego, Wednesday evening (Feb. 26).

Waymon describes social and municipal services (churches, welfare, schools, etc.) as delivery systems, delivering--at high cost--programs and services which are frequently not in accordance with the requests and needs of the poor.

There is little or no feedback, he states--the ideas and suggestions of the poor are not heard. The affluent feel they know what the answers are for the poor and they proceed to make the "rules" and enforce them.

Poverty, Waymon said, has many dimensions. According to the "money game," those below a certain income bracket are called poor and those earning a penny or a dollar more are not.

He stressed that the poor are discriminated against by exclusion from clubs, church groups, scholarships, justice in courts, etc. They have less money, less knowledge, less food, and are given less attention because they are not members of the "privileged group" in society, he added.

The privileged group view the poor as irresponsible, Waymon said. The poor view themselves as a "no-thing," suffering, Waymon explained, from lack of

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self respect, and power.

The affluent see the poor as responsible for their own plight Waymon said, and the poor see themselves as victims of the affluent. "They feel nobody outside of their encampment cares about them."

Waymon described the middle class as a "paper society," meeting in conference rooms, passing resolutions, authorizing investigation after investigation, and passing laws.

Having formed committees, and planning additional conferences, the middle class feels they have helped solve the problems of the poor, Waymon said.

According to Waymon, this brings up the questions of whose poverty it is, for whose benefit does it exist, and why poverty continues in 1969? These questions will be explored in later sessions.

The Cities in Crisis series will continue each Wednesday evening through Mar. 26. The next lecture will focus on the problems of youth and racism.

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