

REMARKS OF WILLIAM J. BOWE, PRESIDENT, CLARENCE DARROW  
COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT  
THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY CULTURAL CENTER PRESTON BRADLEY HALL  
APRIL 16, 1979

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When it comes to urban ghettos, Chicagoans know more than a few names. Cabrini-Green. The West Side. The South Side. Taylor Homes. There's comfort to some in not knowing the others. As though not knowing a place means it has no problems.

Le Claire Courts, the community served by Darrow Center, is one of those others, one that's troubled though you may not hear the cries. It's a Chicago Housing Authority community of about 800 black families located in the triangle bounded by 47th Street, Cicero and the Stevenson Expressway. Resident requirement: poverty. You name the ghetto problem, Le Claire Courts has it. Apathy. Hopelessness. Drugs. Idleness. School dropouts. Broken families. Broken spirits.

But in one way Le Claire Courts is different from Chicago's other hurting communities. . . It's an enclave--a tiny black island surrounded by whites--a place where cause and effect can be watched, measured and controled--where a relatively small effort can produce significant results. It's also a place so small that it has no claim on the social service agencies other communities depend on.

The effort that all of you made to be here tonight to honor the Clarence Darrow award recipients is an effort that produces

results for the Le Claire Courts Community. The Clarence Darrow Community Center, whose Board of Directors has sponsored the event this evening, is the only social service center in the community. Your support in keeping this Hull House Affiliate going in a period of inflationary retrenchment is deeply appreciated by the Board and the entire community. It is in the highest traditions of Clarence Darrow and those others who, in Darrow's words, "have borne the labors of the human race."

Thank you.