

Blackstone Rangers for three years.

He believes the Rangers represent something very new in Urban America. The political power of the Rangers is not duplicated by other city gangs, he says. And, he adds, "They are really representative of the community."

As an organization, the Rangers function with rules and regulations. Fighting between members is prohibited and when this norm is violated, the Ranger is punished. The group holds formal meetings to decide on action and then acts as an organization. This contrasts, says Dr. Davis, with the more typical small gangs which exist primarily for social reasons rather than political action.

For all their constructive action, the Rangers are no choirboys. They have grown up in violence, engaged in warfare with rival gangs and watched authorities engaging in illegal practices.

In mental health terms, this means that the healthy individual is not the one who adopts straight, square values, unrealistic to his environment. "For those guys to act in terms that would be considered healthy by the mainstream, they would be either sick or dead," says Harry Cain, chief of the center for study of metropolitan and regional mental health problems at the National Institute of Mental Health, Bethesda, Md.

In getting funds, for instance, the Rangers have considered a number of alternatives—not all of them legal, says Dr. Davis. But when fund-raising threatened the community on one occasion, the Rangers put a stop to it. They had asked members to pay dues; however, most of the members were unemployed and they began squeezing money from non-Ranger youths. The practice was creating hostility in the community and the organization prohibited extortion. To make the ban feasible, they simply stopped collecting the dues.

When The Woodlawn Organization, a unit of 100 civic, religious and business groups with wide experience in community development, won an OEO grant to use in the South Side ghetto, the Rangers accepted it willingly. They were aware of the need for employment assistance and TWO was aware of the need to use their leadership as an integral part of the program.

The current hearings threaten, if they have not destroyed, the venture—which was admittedly a risky one. At the moment OEO has taken the proposal for renewed funds under review, and has given two small extensions to maintain a skeleton staff in the South Side. The outcome may well depend on testimony planned by OEO for next week's appearance before the McClellan Committee.

WESTON MONEY

High energy politics



Argonne

Tabletop model of Weston facility. Accelerator will be under ring in background

The fortunes of the big Weston, Ill., accelerator were going steadily downward until last week, when science, politics and civil rights combined to improve them.

The Atomic Energy Commission originally wanted to spend \$77 million and start construction this year. The White House wouldn't even let AEC ask Congress for more than \$25 million, however. And by the time the House of Representatives was finished, the appropriation had been trimmed to \$7.1 million.

Besides imposing rigid economy, the House also forbade AEC to spend any money on construction at this time.

At this, the AEC took alarm. It had recruited a staff of experienced accelerator scientists headed by Dr. Robert R. Wilson, formerly of Cornell University, in the expectation that construction would begin, and it was afraid that these people would drift off to more rewarding positions if they were restricted to design studies.

The commission had one more chance—the Senate Committee on Appropriations—and it decided to make a push there for restoration of \$7.9 million—to bring the total to \$15 million—and removal of the restriction on construction.

It had powerful and successful support:

- Senator Everett M. Dirksen (R-Ill.), Minority Leader of the Senate, wrote to the Appropriations Committee asking it to restore the full \$25 million.
- Representative Melvin Price (D-

Ill.), chairman of the Subcommittee on Research, Development and Radiation of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, wrote, urging "that at least a minimal construction program should be undertaken during fiscal year 1969."

• Clarence Mitchell, director of the Washington Bureau of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People wrote pointing out "the danger that the project will not be able to offer employment to other than professional and scientific personnel because of House restrictions. . . ." The project has a program in which men from poverty areas had been trained in running of earth-moving equipment, a trade that could earn them about four dollars an hour, if there were any construction to do.

In response to all this the Senate Committee recommended raising the budget to \$20 million and giving the AEC authority for preliminary construction of the 200-400 billion-electron-volt machine.

A Senate-House conference to adjust differences between the House and Senate bills is a final hurdle, but the Senate Committee, in putting in \$5 million more than the AEC was asking for, seems to have given negotiating room.

Atomic Energy Commissioner Gerald F. Tape says, "We have the two extremes in money, the House \$7 million and the Senate \$20 million. Experience shows these things usually end up somewhere in the middle. I'm hopeful that there will be some compromise that will allow some construction to go on."