

North Side Ministry Admits Some Aid Went to Street Gangs

Officials of the North Side Cooperative Ministry, accused in testimony before a Senate subcommittee of giving financial support and influencing New Left groups, admitted yesterday they helped support specific programs of the groups and had a bail fund for gang members.

At first, the Rev. James Reed, vice president of the ministry, told a press conference the charges were untrue and said that two representatives of the Lincoln Park Conservation Association lied under oath in their testimony last Aug. 3 before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. The testimony was made public Tuesday.

Admits Specific Grants

The Rev. Mr. Reed, in response to questions, then admitted that "we have supported those groups [named in the testimony] in specific programs." He named breakfast programs for the poor and legal



The Rev. James Reed

programs as those supported by the ministry. He said only \$2,000 to \$3,000 was given.

The Rev. Mr. Reed admitted that the ministry had started a bail fund about a year ago for gang members arrested, but said it never amounted to much and does not exist now.

The two men who testified

before the Senate subcommittee were Hugh Patrick Feely, executive director of the conservation association, and Harry Port Jr., an advertising man and a board member of the association.

Feely and Port had testified that the ministry was the parent organization of groups such as the Young Lords, Concerned Citizens Survival Front and the Young Patriots, acted as a funding agent for the various groups, and gave financial support and facilities to the groups.

Group of 26 Churches

In their testimony, Feely and Port had linked the ministry, a group of 26 churches in the Lincoln Park-Lakeview communities, and the organizations it allegedly helps support with the Students for a Democratic Society and the Lincoln Park Press. Port described the newspaper as dealing with "revolution" and featuring "Marxist ideas."

The Rev. Mr. Reed, who met with the press in a vacant lot at Wisconsin Avenue and Larrabee Street, said "the ministry has never taught revolution and opposes violence." The Holy Covenant Methodist Church, of which Reed is pastor, leases a storefront to the Concerned Citizens group at 2512 N. Lincoln Av.

Reed said Feely and Port had given "false testimony" because Mayor Daley had influenced them to do so because the ministry has opposed urban renewal projects in the Lincoln Park area.