

18-ST. THOMAS MES-JOURNAL, Saturday, Jan. 6, 1973

Elgin County among 12 included in

Encumbrances

A new program sponsored jointly by the Canadian Council of Churches and the Canadian Catholic Conference is aimed at having the members of all churches in each community use the extensive resources of their churches to respond at the local level to solve local problems.

The Ecumenical Coalition for Development (ECD) is being established in twelve counties in southwestern Ontario, including Elgin, and is an attempt to overcome duplication of social action efforts by various denominations.

The aim is to develop in-

terlocking and supportive regional, area and neighborhood resources councils. There is no attempt to suggest what form ECD will take in any given locality, although there will be a centralized information bank which will contain current information about many varied social

action and community service projects which it is expected will be useful to all ECD groups.

A centralized record service will also be maintained which will make it easier for volunteers to transfer from one project to another or to maintain their involvement in

ECD if they should move to a new community.

It is hoped that the program will also provide volunteers with a greater identification with each other and a feeling of being part of something larger than the individual project on which they are working.

By providing a forum for

discussion of regional, provincial and national issues, local churches can focus more sharply on those which will be of concern to them.

Coalitions have been formed in several communities throughout Canada and an effort is now being made throughout southwestern Ontario to begin such co-ordinated projects.

In a covering letter to the St. Thomas and District Ministerial Association, proponents of the scheme point out that "it is hoped that this idea will be picked up by a few concerned people in as many neighborhoods as possible."

Association secretary Rev. Barry Thomas of Talbotville said that members of the association have not yet had time to discuss the proposals.

Interested persons are invited to view the Dick Berryman show on CFPL television at 2:30 p.m. on January 15 for further details.

Information on the program

can also be obtained by contacting local clergy, or John Harrison, Box 171, Lambeth, or telephoning 652-2009.