

Mayor's poverty board is one-fourth Negroes

A 45-member Poverty War board of directors, including a goodly selection of Negro representatives, was announced Monday by Mayor John J. Barton.

The board of the Community Action Against Poverty (CAAP) includes 16 members who were chosen by a special nominating committee.

"This committee selected the persons from social agencies

and neighborhood organizations who work with and for the poverty-stricken persons in our community," to the Mayor said. "Some would even be classified as poverty persons."

A scanning of the list showed, moreover, that more than one-fourth of the 45-member board is comprised of Negro persons from various walks of life. There are 13 Negroes.

THE INCLUSION of these

members familiar with poverty and of the Negro members was a victory for Rev. Andrew J. Brown Jr., president of the Central Indiana Christian Leadership Conference, and other civil rights spokesmen who sounded off last month after the Mayor appointed a seven-member "executive committee" of CAAP.

The protesters were especially disturbed because the Mayor's

original list included only one Negro, David Smith, an Army Finance Center employee who lives outside the city and has not been active in civil rights causes here. (He is president of the American Federation of Government Employees, Lodge 1411, AFL-CIO).

"We want Negroes on these committees," Rev. Brown demanded at that time. "And we want Negroes who know the people and who through living and working with these people know the needs of these areas to be embraced by the anti-poverty programs."

Joining in the protests were Andrew W. Ramsey, NAACP state president, and Earl Barnette, city president, and Rev. V. Miller Newton, president of

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the Inner City Association. The NAACP sent a letter of protest to R. Sargent Shriver, national head of the Poverty War.

Apparently the protesters also won out on their contention that the original seven-member group should not constitute an executive committee. "The first formal meeting of the board will be held on May 12," the Mayor's statement declared. "At that time officers will be elected, by-laws will be adopted and an executive committee will be named by the board."

Among those named to the board were Lionel F. Artis, Smith H. Cheatham, Mrs. Mary Collins, Rev. James L. Cummings, William Harrison, Albert E. Pope, Rev. Mozel Sanders, David D. Smith, Rev. Robert Smith, Leo Wade, Miss Izona D. Warner, Rev. Charles T. Watkins and Mrs. Faye Williams.

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