



By Harris Ellsworth, M. C.

Letters I have received recently from city officials in the Fourth Congressional district indicate pretty clearly that the propaganda drive which was carried on for the recently-enacted public housing bill was misleading.

Apparently the general impression is that cities large and small in any part of the United States may have government money aid for the construction of houses if such aid is requested. I expect it might be claimed that such an impression is technically correct. But let's take a look at the technicalities. Here is the way the new law operates: City officials must first make a careful study for the purpose of finding out if a federal housing project is needed. Then a local housing authority must be organized under the state laws. Next, a survey of housing needs must be conducted. In order to qualify for a federal project the facts developed in the survey must show the number of low income families needing the housing. It must also be shown that the incomes of these families are such as to make it impossible for them to pay the prevailing rents for privately-owned housing. (Families who can pay 80% or more of the prevailing rental rates cannot qualify). There are other provisions but these are the most important.

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After the required information has been obtained the local housing agency may file a formal application with the Seattle office of the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency. Section 301 (8) (a) of Title III of the law should be carefully noted also. The first proviso of this paragraph reads: "(a) the public housing agency shall fix maximum income limits for the admission and for the continued occupancy of families in such housing."

What this all means is that under certain circumstances a community can qualify for the construction of some of these public housing unit buildings.

When completed they may be occupied only by people who do not earn enough income to pay more than 80% of the normal rent. If the head of any such family has the good luck or the extra energy to increase his income—he will have to move his family elsewhere.

This new law represents the first instance that I know of wherein the government singles out the very poor people of a community, places them in one building or a series of similar buildings—and by their very presence as occupants of such buildings brands them as 'poor people.'

If you feel I have over-stated the case in voicing my opposition to the administration housing bill, write me and I will gladly send a copy of the law and you can read the wording of it for yourself.

The house rejected what was called a sample or "trial run" of the widely publicized Brannan plan for supporting farm prices—or for subsidizing food prices to consumers. (It may be stated either way because the proposal would do both—with money from the federal treasury). The defeat of the bill was by a wide margin.

The politics of bringing the plan up for a vote at this time was to force the Republicans into voting against legislation supposedly designed to put money in the pockets of farmer. Had most of the farmers favored the legislation, this political trick might have worked. But farmers can tell the difference between a good deal and a bad one—they rated this Brannan plan as no bargain. The large farm organizations actively opposed it. They figure it no bargain because in order to obtain an unknown amount of cash they

would be forced to surrender their own independence and be registered from Washington, D. C. Very few farmers would willingly submit to that.

**LOCAL NEWS**

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Layman of Smith River, were visitors in this area Sunday evening.

Mrs. R. M. Brash, of Portland, is visiting her sister-in-law, Mrs. Ina DeMoss. She came last Thursday.

Miss Edith Ott, who formerly lived in this area until about two years ago, now a resident of Portland, is spending her vacation in the area. She arrived by bus on Monday evening.

Mrs. G. Sutcliffe left by bus Monday evening for Wenatchee, Wash., where she will spend a week with her son.

A number of neighborhood children, and mothers, were asked in Saturday afternoon by Mrs. Stanley Patterson to enjoy Patty's birthday cake. She was five years old, Saturday.

Kenneth Thompson, Curry Co. representative for Smithwick pumice blocks, was a business visitor in this area the first of the week. He has sold the blocks to August DePhillips, which will go into the construction of the DePhillips motel, near the fire guard station.

*Vada's Beauty Shop will be closed from August 1 to 30.*

Mrs. Lillie Crosby returned from a visit with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Echols, at Newman Lake, Wash. She also visited Boise and Portland, while away on the trip.

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