

Low income tenants due rent refunds

WASHINGTON, D.C.—An estimated three-quarter million low-income tenants who overpaid rents in "Section 236" government-subsidized housing between Feb. 1, 1975 and September 30, 1977 are being sought through a massive direct mail and outreach effort so they can be paid back some \$60 million in rent overcharges.

The rent refunds of up to \$500 per eligible tenant are a result of a settlement in eleven class action suits including a nationwide class action filed on behalf of "Section 236" housing tenants against the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Boxes of claim forms and instructions were mailed the week of October 22, 1979 to the owners of some 4,800 "Section 236" housing projects. The project owners will distribute claim forms to all current tenants. In addition, claim forms are being mailed directly to former tenants who have moved, if the project owner or former tenant has supplied forwarding addresses to the claim processing center. Persons who are unsure whether an apartment project in which they lived at any time between Feb. 1, 1975 and Sept. 30, 1977 was a "236" project should

contact the apartment owner or manager or look at their leases or any other forms completed when moving in, or contact a local HUD office or a community group providing free legal assistance.

In order to receive their refunds, eligible tenants must return the completed forms no later than Jan. 31, 1980, to the Clerk of the U.S. District Court, P.O. Box 60864, Los Angeles, California, 90060. Former tenants who have lived in "Section 236" housing and wish to obtain a claim form can call the claim processing center's toll free number (800) 824-7980.

All claims will be processed and evaluated, and all checks will be sent at one time, in the Spring of 1980. Eligible tenants, on the average, will receive approximately \$15 a month, for 32 months.

The nationwide class action suit was brought in 1976 against HUD, which has refused to follow a congressional mandate to distribute funds to "Section 236" project owners to subsidize increased tax and utility costs being borne by the low-income tenants. A tenant in Carson, California was the first named plaintiff in the nationwide case. The Western Center is a grantee of the

Legal Services Corporation, a private nonprofit organization established by Congress to provide free legal assistance to the poor in civil matters.

The 1978 settlement, which was agreed to by former HUD secretary Patricia Harris, directs the distribution of the rent refunds.

The nationwide effort to reach the thousands of eligible tenants, being undertaken by the media and through the network of legal services attorneys, is necessary because many eligible tenants do not realize that they are members of the class to whom the settlement has been awarded. One problem in reaching eligible tenants is that an estimated 30-50 percent of the renters who lived in "Section 236" subsidized apartment housing during the two-year period have since moved out of government-subsidized housing.

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Members of Jack and Jill present fruit and canned goods to Mrs. Maud Nicholas at the Nicholas Care Center. Pictured with Mrs. Nicholas; Deanna Mitchell, Walter Mitchell, Aaron Walker, Charles White, Valerie White.

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(Photo: Richard Brown)

Urban League shifts staff

The Urban League of Portland today announced several staff changes within the organization which will enhance its services to the community. Edward Barton has been appointed Director of Financial Affairs; Norm Monroe has been appointed Deputy Director; and Avel Waters will replace Monroe as Director of the Urban League's Northeast Youth Service Center. As a result of these appointments, several positions of current staff members and will provide for hiring new staff into those vacated positions.

Ed Barton was employed as Associate Director of Agency Services for United Way before joining the Urban League staff on November 13. As Associate Director, Barton was responsible for planning and administering the allocations of all member agency funds as well as special funding of non-member locally based human service projects. He has a Juris Doctorate from Northwest School of Law, Lewis and Clark College, where he also ob-

tained his B.S.

Norm Monroe is currently Director of the Urban League's Northeast Youth Service Center where he is responsible for program planning and implementation and coordination of youth programs with groups, institutions, agencies and the Juvenile justice system. Barton has a B.S. from Oregon State University and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Portland State University. He will assume the responsibilities of Deputy Director in mid-December.

Avel Waters currently serves as Staff Manager at the Urban League's Northeast Youth and Senior Adult Service Center where she is responsible for the supervision of counselors and other staff persons assigned to the Centers. Avel has a B.S. from Portland State University and has had extensive work experience in management and criminal justice. She will assume the duties of Director of the Northeast Youth Service Center in mid-December.

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Ash tray	\$3.95	FREE	FREE	\$4.95
6" temple jar	\$9.95	\$5.95	FREE	\$10.95
7" lotus bowl	\$9.95	\$5.95	FREE	\$10.95
4.6" plates	\$9.95	\$5.95	FREE	\$10.95
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