

House-Hunting Negro Faces One of Major Tension Points

EDITOR'S NOTE: Many Negroes believe the only string that should be attached to obtaining housing should be the purse string. The following dispatch, third of five, reports on the sentiments and problems the Negro faces in obtaining a place to live.

By AL KUETTNER
United Press International
When a Negro goes house-hunting, he is headed for one of

the major tension points of the civil rights dispute.

Even in areas where there is almost whole-hearted sympathy for the Negro revolution, there is an attitude that the problem should be solved "but not in my neighborhood."

A railroad track... a river front... the end of the pavement. These are the boundary lines in city after city between the white and Negro sections. Negroes say they still are restricted to ghetto life, regardless of how extensive their neighborhoods or how expensive their dwellings.

Most states report that Negroes live in their own neighborhoods "by custom." But "whose custom is it?" asked one Negro.

"You might say that Negroes are just expanding the ghetto," reported a St. Louis Negro newspaper publisher. In just about every state in the nation where there is a sizeable Negro population, a

move by Negroes toward or into a white neighborhood produces an exodus or violence — sometimes both.

Same Everywhere
It is the same in Polcroft, Pa., Dayton, Ohio, Atlanta, Denver, San Francisco, New York or scores of other spots. It is fear of lowered property values. It is, for Negro and white, a stubborn battle for the biggest material investment most of them ever make: a home.

In Oklahoma City, Mrs. Lealen B. Hillis says some of the most tolerant whites are those who live in "safe" neighborhoods.

"When we went looking for a new home, they wouldn't take our present home in trade because the Negroes have been moving into this area," said Mrs. Hillis. "The Negroes are still eight or ten blocks from us, but our property isn't worth what it used to be because of this."
Mrs. Hillis, a 33-year-old housewife, said she sided with the Negro cause more than a

year ago. That was before the Hillis property value dropped.

Take Legal Steps
Last summer, the late President Kennedy issued an executive order forbidding discrimination in any building project that receives federal aid. The U. S. Supreme Court has outlawed real estate covenants that restrict home buying to certain racial groups.

A 1961 Indiana law provides that any person who bars another from a public housing project "by reason of race, creed or color" is subject to a maximum penalty of 30 days imprisonment and a \$100 fine. There have been no convictions.

Many other ordinances, resolutions and rulings have been issued to forestall actual or de facto segregated housing, but few have resulted in great success. Most are superceded by an unwritten law: When Negroes move in, whites move out. Negroes themselves are making an effort at education campaigns to forestall panic selling by whites and greedy buying by Negroes.

Some of the strongest sentiment against Negroes moving into predominantly white residential areas has been in the non-South.

When Harold Amos, a Negro, started constructing a home in a white suburb of Buffalo, N.Y., anti-Negro slogans were scrawled on the partially completed dwelling. The Rev. Robert A. Rounce, a white clergyman, appeared with 20 of his church members the next day and painted over the words.

Main Problem
Negroes say their main housing problem is finding adequate homes for low income Negroes and housing they can afford.

A high-rise, high-rent apartment building now dominates the scene in Atlanta's "Buttermilk Bottom," formerly an area of dilapidated Negro shacks. But some of the best low-cost housing available to Negroes in the nation has replaced the slums.
The most desirable Negro section in Jacksonville, N.C., is a new subdivision developed by a prominent white builder. The

project resulted from efforts of James Robinson, publisher of the Jacksonville Daily News. The homes are two- and three-story brick structures on paved streets.

The negative side of Jacksonville's Negro housing program is the city's garbage and sewage disposal area.

When it comes to segregation versus integration, "lines of communication" between the races often make the difference in peace or tension.

"When it comes to housing, I don't think the Negro understands the way the white feels, and I don't think the white is making any attempt to know how the Negro feels," says Mrs. Thomas Newman, a white housewife in Eminence, Ky. "The Negroes are going too fast in housing."

Two Of Largest
Two of the largest concentrations of Negroes in the world are in New York City and Chicago. In Chicago the Negro population has gained 85 per cent in the past 10 years. During the same period, the white population decreased by 13 per cent.

Most of the Negroes in Chicago live in an area three by nine miles, but fingers of Negro settlements are spreading to other sections. The median value of a Negro-owned home in the city is \$16,700, reflecting a boost of 82 per cent in a single decade.

The Windy City's Negro section also is a poorer section of town. This is the area where a 35-year-old Negro auto washer who migrated from Jackson, Miss., lives. He had hoped living would be better.

The Negro, who declined use of his name, stands daylong near a track and hops in front of a car to swab down the chrome. He has little education, and a wife and five children.
"We got to have more money and more living room," he says. "We're sitting on top of each other. He asks himself, why are our schools crowded? We got to live all penned in here. When somebody tries to move out, they got to move into white neighborhoods because there just ain't no place else to go here."

The problem worries white Americans as much as any phase of the Negro transition.

"I don't want to sacrifice the things I have gained to be considered a good Samaritan," said an insurance salesman in Oklahoma City.
"My husband and I have just bought a new home," said Mrs. Natalie Seiman, a Connecticut housewife. "I can't really say what my feeling would be if a neighbor sold to a Negro."

SECTION D
MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1963

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NEGRO TENEMENTS — Negroes still live in these ancient and rundown tenements on the south side of Atlanta, Ga. Understandably they want something better, and many are able to pay for something better. In many cities, though, the "something better" just isn't available. (UPI)

Gifts Being Prepared To Send To Salem

Contributions to the Christmas Gift project of the Jackson County Mental Health Association are being assembled for shipment to Salem to the State Hospital this week. Mrs. Herbert Gifford, committee chairman, has announced.

The shipment from Jackson County will go to Salem Saturday, Dec. 14.

The Director of Social Services has informed the local group that in some wards of older patients 80 per cent of the patients are dependent upon the people of the state for a Christmas remembrance.

Gifts to encourage group activity, such as tea and coffee, games and records are wanted. These often provide an incentive for socialization and could shorten hospitalization for some patients.

The committee here has been told by the hospital superintendent.

The Jackson County Mental Health Association's gift project has been designed to help fill this need, Mrs. Gifford emphasized.

There also is a need for clothing, particularly shirts, socks, underclothing, slippers and similar items.

Considering the little time left to prepare the gifts for shipment, Mrs. Gifford has asked that any persons interested in contributing do so as soon as possible.

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

WEST LOS ANGELES — Jim Mahoney, a spokesman for Frank Sinatra Sr., after the singer's son was released by kidnappers:
"The boy is home. He just got here. He's in good shape."

DALLAS — Attorney Melvin Belli, after talking in private with his client, Jack Ruby, charged with the murder of President Kennedy's accused assassin:
"My eyes were moist when he recounted what he went through."

WASHINGTON — Sen. Philip A. Hart, D-Mich, in a prepared eulogy to President Kennedy:
"In the past few weeks, millions of the world's people have worn a look of stunned despair. Certainly, nothing I could say would be a more eloquent tribute to John F. Kennedy than the grief on those faces."

WASHINGTON — President Johnson on the Senate's action in passing a \$1.2 billion college construction aid bill:
"This Congress is well on its way to doing more for education than any Congress since the land-grant college act was passed 100 years ago."

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