

Mr. TOWNSEND. Yes, sir; I do. It seems to me that this is a major matter of a criterion that sometimes has been unattended simply because it is hard to define. But I suspect that it does more damage and makes bad housing simply because there is not available to people a place to live.

Mr. ST GERMAIN. How would you reconcile this, Mr. Townsend, with the new provisional regulation—unless I am mistaken it states that there shall be but one bathroom or one bath in each one of these apartments. Does that not limit the number of bedrooms, and, therefore, does not this fly in the face of providing housing under the rent supplement program for larger families who are overcrowded?

Mr. TOWNSEND. Well, the physical requirements for the number of persons to be accommodated by the number of bedrooms has been generally the criteria in the past. Whether or not this will answer the problem of overcrowding I am not quite sure in this new legislation. But I think that the overcrowding element as such should be identified as one of the criteria or one of the reasons why additional space should be provided.

Mr. ST GERMAIN. In view of that, then, I imagine you would recommend also that this regulation be changed as to the limitation?

Mr. TOWNSEND. Yes, sir.

Mr. ST GERMAIN. Because they would have to be hand in hand; would they not?

Mr. TOWNSEND. Yes, indeed.

Mr. ST GERMAIN. Nothing further, Mr. Chairman.

We thank you, Mr. Townsend.

Mr. BARRETT. Thank you, Mr. St Germain.

And Mr. Townsend, I think Mr. Fino has one other short question.

Mr. FINO. Mr. Townsend, in line with the question that Mr. St Germain asked, you and I know that this rent supplement program is not yet in operation, and it probably will not be in operation for another 2 years. This is an experimental program. And what you are suggesting is that we increase the categories eligible before we even test the program as we enacted it. Don't you think you are going a little too fast?

Mr. TOWNSEND. Well, I would presume that some of these things have been proven in other programs, and that in those places where proof has been obvious it seems to me that they ought to be naturally incorporated in this new legislation so that we don't have to come along and propose the same amendments again next year.

Mr. FINO. As I understand it, under the new rules and regulations it will be three bedrooms and one bath, so you are not going to take care of this overcrowded condition.

But I think you ought to wait on that and let's see how this program works out, once we get it rolling. And then we can come in with added recommendations, and maybe we can have room to have some Congressmen admitted to the program.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Townsend, all we are worried about is the lack of proper and adequate housing. We hope we can do what Mr. Shishkin has pointed out this morning, get the starts up to about 2 million a year, and then we will be on our way to take care of everybody who