

cycle similar to a local capital improvements program, timed over a period that coincides with a long-term Federal funding authorization period (4 years under the 1965 act); (d) execution of specific programs must be based on a local action schedule; and (e) the criterion for eligibility for a specific program must be simply that it will have an impact on the cycle of deterioration or provide a basic improvement to the area.

Further, NAHRO continues to support the enactment of legislation similar to H.R. 6431, introduced in the 80th Congress by Congressman Rains to facilitate renewal of central business districts.

*Code enforcement.*—NAHRO sees the biennium ahead as a crucial testing period of whether or not the Nation's communities are ready to initiate planned systematic approaches to conserving neighborhoods by applying effective minimum standards below which they will not permit their housing supply to fall.

The Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 gave recognition to the national importance of code enforcement in community development programs and authorized direct grants to communities for programs of concentrated code enforcement to assist them to expand and strengthen local codes administration.

NAHRO makes an urgent plea to every community to immediately plan and implement concentrated code enforcement programs, utilizing section 117 as well as the supplement aids provided in the 1965 act, including grants for planned programs of demolition of unsound structures.

NAHRO calls the attention of all local government officials to the obligation imposed in the Housing Act of 1964, requiring that communities have an effective housing code program beginning March 1967 for certification or recertification of their "workable programs." This requirement ties the future of all local federally aided housing and community development programs to the adequacy of codes programs. Therefore, it is imperative that all local government officials begin now to give full support to local codes officials and assist them in planning and implementing effective codes programs.

With respect to the newly enacted section 117, NAHRO, calls attention to the fact that this amendment does not authorize concentrated code enforcement programs in our truly depressed slum areas. NAHRO urges Congress, at its next session, to amend or clarify this section so that depressed slum areas qualify for section 117 aid, for the following reasons: many such areas lack ongoing federally assisted programs; the responsibility for maintaining decent housing standards in these areas devolves upon code enforcement officials; and individuals and families inhabiting such depressed areas, at the least, are entitled to housing that meets minimum standards of habitation, pending the renewal or redevelopment of the area.

*Housing.*—The new Department has four major housing programs aimed at providing assistance to those families and individuals not able to afford private housing: the public housing program; the two below-market interest rate programs (the Federal Housing Administration's section 221(d)(3) moderate-income program, and the Community Facilities Administration's direct loan program for the elderly); and the rent supplement program authorized by the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965.

The public housing program is at a new stage in its process of evolution. Integration into the new Department may provide a valuable opportunity to reframe concepts and procedures developed in response to the economic and social conditions of the 1930's. It may also provide a framework to utilize new public housing assistance tools in a productive relationship with other urban development programs. The other programs of housing assistance are too new to require adaptation in the same sense as the public housing program. However, there is a special need to consider the tested experience of the past—especially the experience of the public housing program—in developing the concepts and practices of these newer programs.

Perhaps the most important consideration in adjusting housing assistance to the needs of the 1960's relates to the position of the low-income family in the United States. Low-income families are deeply involved as the focal point of an effort to eliminate poverty from the national scene and they have a new, forceful voice in their own destiny. NAHRO calls attention to a number of important concerns that should be made a part of the process of planning housing for low-income families:

Complete concentration of low-income families in center city areas or in separate housing developments is under serious question. While there will be a continuing need to utilize housing developments for low-income