

housing does not seem to loom large in the conceptual thinking of those who are forming this broad new Department.

So I compliment you on recognizing that this is important. I realize that the organization is primarily faced with many problems. But nevertheless I hope that you will maintain an unremitting effort through your organization and your membership to alert the citizens of the danger that threatens the public housing in our country.

I do not agree with so many of the critics and enemies of public housing—of course, public housing has already been fought, and it seems to me that now we have reached a point where the enemy has gained a considerable victory. And yet the people this movement helps and has helped are generally the people who do not have an articulate voice. This is where I think we can better justify our election to these positions of ostensible representation.

So I end up where I started by complimenting you on your interest and your awareness of our need.

And Mr. Chairman, I yield back whatever time I may have remaining to my colleague, Mr. St Germain.

Mr. BARRETT. He has 2½ minutes, Mr. St Germain.

Mr. ST GERMAIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Fay, I would like to agree with you on a few of your proposed amendments. On page 13 as to modernization and updating of older low-rent housing developments, certainly we are all aware of the fact that a great many of these are in dire need of modernization and updating.

And No. 3 in your suggestions, "To encourage good as well as economical design," here again we have seen examples of some pretty horrible design. It seems as though there has been a trend there—I feel that this applies also to housing for the elderly. There seems to be a trend in economics, and one concept where they come up with a particular design, and it is acceptable, and it is found to be economical enough, and everywhere you go you see that same housing project or that same housing for the elderly project with maybe a few little minor variations, but in essence no real inspiration, no thought, no attempt at picking a site, for instance, that when developed would have natural beauty tied in with the design, and no attempt at having the design tied into the geographical location and the natural beauty that might be available.

And so I say to you, I commend you on bringing up this point, because I think it is terribly important. I think it is incumbent upon us to spend a little more time looking at many of these, and encouraging better design and more efficient and effective design, and yet more beautiful design. Because these particular projects can lend to the beauty of the community if well executed.

Mr. FAY. Mr. Chairman, might I just respond to the Congressman.

We have been very mindful of the problem in this direction. I might say that it is a very challenging matter, as you can readily understand, to take limitations of most sites that are available to us in our cities these days, and economically within the criteria still come up with something that is attractive. But NAHRO last year sponsored with the American Institute of Architects and the Public Housing Administration a series of design seminars, some 8 or 10 of them around the country, as I recall. This was carried out in part with a grant from the Ford Foundation, and was at least in part responsible