

cities bill. It is evident that urban renewal projects that demolish housing, and proceed at the expense of code enforcement, have no real benefit since slum areas develop in the marginal areas, thus requiring additional demolition. Code enforcement is an excellent preventative.

We urge the committee to direct HUD to expand its code enforcement operations to include systematic inspections of buildings, including the interior, to enable HUD to verify the validity of claims of code enforcement under workable programs. We believe that this would implement the 1964 Housing Act. In short, HUD inspectors would not enforce codes, but they would gather evidence to check on whether the city is doing so.

10. Cities should be required to take over the property of slum landlords who fail to obey the housing code. In addition, HUD should make inspections to see that the cities are operating such housing at code standards. This should also be a workable program requirement.

Next, we turn to amendments to H.R. 12939—Urban Development Act.

1. In section 206 dealing with section 701(A) of the Housing Act of 1954 we believe that one of the conditions for getting grants under section 701 is that the local planning agency develop a comprehensive plan that shows how it will set forth policies dealing with the environmental and educational needs of low-income families. In short, local planning grants should be geared to complement national antipoverty policy. Suburban communities unwilling to aid the war against poverty, should be excluded from the benefits of that section.

2. The administration has for the third time proposed a program of mortgage insurance for land development. On the surface, providing mortgage insurance for land development programs that will be utilized for new subdivisions under entirely new communities, appears to be a major innovation. However, the bill only provides a nominal new town proposal. The proposal in the Urban Development Act will meet the national goal of a decent, safe, and sanitary house for every American only if the provision assures that low- and middle-income persons and the elderly will be able to purchase and obtain housing in large subdivisions in the new communities. The administration's program fails to support fully its ideology of fighting a total war against poverty. There is no explicit provision made for providing a large number of new homes for low-income families.

The land development program, if it is to assist in creating equal housing opportunity, must take into account the need of low-income families, regardless of race or ethnic group, to gain access along with others to areas of new development. Such private land developments should be granted Government mortgage insurance only if they propose to establish communities that all sectors of the population can afford. At least one-third of all insured land development should be required to be priced at an available level for low-income families. A specific low-income provision should be written into the law. Our support for the program is contingent upon such a provision being included.

It would be a great tragedy to have the Federal Government supporting an expensive new program furthering economic class distinction between central city residents and suburban residents. It is