

I feel that my proposed amendment to the National Housing Act, H.R. 696, would promise the most expedient solution of a problem that is destined to grow ever more pressing with increased aviation activities.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

CHARLES LONGSTREET WELTNER,
Member of Congress.

FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, D.C., July 12, 1965.

HON. CHARLES LONGSTREET WELTNER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. WELTNER: I have received your letter on the recommendations of the Committee on Banking and Currency in its report of H.R. 7984 on the problem of the proximity of housing to airports. I was particularly interested in the committee's suggestion that the establishment of a fund for payment of damages under the Federal Airport Act may afford the most direct and equitable solution.

I share your concern over the adverse effect that the construction and expansion of airports is having on homeowners located adjacent to airports. However, I do not believe that FHA mortgage insurance is the proper vehicle for providing compensation to property owners for losses caused by airport expansion. My reasons for this view were outlined in my letter to you on this subject on March 19, 1964.

If compensation to homeowners for damage resulting from airport expansion is justified, I believe the committee's recommendation for provisions under the Federal Airport Act should be given serious consideration. These considerations should, however, be carefully weighed against the widespread ramifications, from an overall Government point of view, that would result from providing special relief to homeowners whose property values are affected by airport expansion activities where comparable relief is not being provided for homeowners whose property values are affected by other activities of the Federal Government.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Philip N. Brownstein,
(Typed) P. N. BROWNSTEIN,
Commissioner.

MR. WELTNER. The Chairman will recall that in his report there was a direction to the Housing Administrator that he review his present policies and procedure in order to reduce the economic loss suffered by these homeowners in the event they sell their homes.

In my letter of July 1, I called that to the Commissioner's attention. On July 12, he responded. Apparently the review consists of three paragraphs, and this is as much as we have been able to generate as a result of either the direction in the report or section 1113 of the Housing Act.

I would like to offer both those and I have two specific recommendations, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BARRETT. Those are in the record now.

MR. WELTNER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we place at the appropriate place in the bill an amendment to section 1113 to provide that the report therein called for be submitted no later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this bill, of the 1966 legislation and also a specific authorization for appropriation in the amount of \$100,000.

Now, whether it needs to be \$125,000 or \$75,000, I do not know. I think we should have a specific authorization clause in our bill, and I think we should diligently pursue the prospect of having that funded by the appropriations process in both Houses.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, I simply—