

Dr. CARSTENSON. The specific proposal, and I would hope that the committee might consider this as a title or section in whatever omnibus bill is presented. Congressman Stephens has requested that these proposals be developed by the Farmers Home Administration into legislative language for his use and the convenience of the committee.

Mr. BARRETT. May I interpose at this point? All your farm legislation as far as this committee is concerned is going to be allocated to Mr. Stephens. He is our expert in this field and any help you can give him will be of great help to this committee.

Dr. CARSTENSON. Yes, I discussed the matter with him yesterday morning and also with Mr. Paul Nelson and Congressman Hansen of the full committee. I went over some of these more technical aspects of it with Congressmen Hansen and Stephens because there are several technical amendments which would greatly aid the Farmers Home Administration and HUD to serve the rural communities in small cities and towns. For example, we would like to urge that the Secretary of HUD be given the authority to waive the rules and regulations of HUD programs in order to give the very small towns and cities an equitable share of HUD programs.

This is similar to the authority given Sargent Shriver under the Economic Opportunity Act, in order to give a fair and equitable share to rural areas and small towns.

We would also urge that the Secretary of HUD be asked by the committee to report on how he is serving the small towns and small cities, and that a small amount of money, about \$125,000, be given to the Department to study how best they can serve these small towns and cities.

Under the bill that was enacted last year establishing the Department of HUD, there is a provision there calling for close cooperation in the assignment of an Assistant Secretary the specific responsibility for working with the Department of Agriculture to make sure there isn't a gap in the communities served. We would like to ask the committee to request as soon as possible that the Secretary do move ahead to develop this relationship with the Farmers Home Administration and Department of Agriculture to insure that the small towns are not overlooked.

We also ask that a technical amendment be proposed to allow non-profit groups to be used as consultants in group housing under the Farmers Home Administration similar to that which is now allowed in the HUD for the cities. I think this would greatly move such programs as migrant housing and senior citizens housing ahead. These have been relatively slow in moving ahead.

Specifically, we recommend, the Farmers Union, that the Congress give the Farmers Home Administration the authority to extend credit for construction of rental housing in rural areas for people of all ages and to provide the rent supplementation where such is needed and this should be in a similar manner to that which is developed under the 221(d)(3) program in HUD. This is to give a fair and equitable treatment to low-income families and to senior citizens in rural areas.

We would like to raise the level of housing grant for emergency repairs which the Congress and committee has passed and recommended and supported from \$1,000 to \$1,500, as has been done in the urban renewal areas.