

owner to as much as \$25,000 for moving expenses. Displacement by GS would be without compensation for moving costs.

The worst problem in relocating families and individuals is the shortage of standard substitute housing for low income groups.

Nonwhites have the most difficult relocation problem of all population groups. This comes from their generally lower economic and educational status; the impact of urban renewal and code enforcement programs on neighborhoods where they are concentrated; and public and private practices that restrict their access to housing.

Large families and the elderly present other special housing problems.

Among business displacees, small businesses, particularly those owned and operated by the elderly, are the main dislocation problem. The typical displaced small business is an independent commercial establishment, partnership, or a proprietorship rather than a corporation. The elderly generally have less capital and find it more difficult to secure outside financing. They have little energy or spirit to resume business in a new location. Their problem is most serious when they operate their own business and depend on it for their livelihood. Their businesses are usually retail or personal service stores, dependent on long-developed neighborhood patronage. Advisory assistance is of growing importance in the relocation process.

The relocation process often discloses the social and economic needs of displaced persons, and thereby offers a unique opportunity for helping less privileged social and economic groups.

Three years have elapsed since the Commission adopted this Report, but there has been little change in the basic conditions it criticized then. The consequences of inconsistency and inequity in relocation policies and practices have become worse, if anything, because of the continuing rise in displacements caused by governmental programs.

As already noted, the Commission's 1965 study found that the most serious inequities in Federal relocation policies arose because highway programs cause about one-third of the relocation problem and the level of highway assistance and payments is substantially below that of the major Federal displacing program—urban renewal. It is therefore significant that a special 1967 study of highway relocation assistance undertaken by the Department of Transportation pursuant to Congressional mandate in Public Law 89-574 strongly corroborates the principal findings of the ACIR study. The DOT study states, for example:

"As the highway program has moved forward with a desirable acceleration, the problem of relocation has become more and more aggravated and has affected more and more individuals and businesses. There is an urgent need to fashion a better solution to the urban relocation problem than has existed heretofore.

"This is not a problem peculiar to the highway program alone. It is equally as acute in urban renewal, public building, construction, reclamation projects, and other public improvement programs. In fact, to the extent possible, a generally uniform approach to the solution of the relocation assistance problem seems indicated."

In summarizing the results of consultations with urban officials throughout the country, the DOT report states:

"The problem most frequently mentioned at over 80 percent of the meetings was the disparity of moving cost payments allowed under urban renewal policy, Federal-aid highway policy, and State legislative policies.

"The second problem most frequently referred to was the lack of uniformity of the many relocation assistance procedures within the large urbanized areas. There were differences in payments, time element, administrative practices, planning, eligibility rules, etc.

"Still another problem mentioned was the low income of the minority groups displaced, which in turn created difficulty or in many cases inability to relocate to decent, safe, and sanitary housing units without welfare-type assistance . . .

"Uniformity in relocation procedures and moving payment was the most emphasized recommendation at the majority of the meetings. The lack of uniformity of the many governmental agencies created some bitterness and disillusionment in the large urban areas where several different programs were in operation at the same time."

The findings of the Commission's 1965 report are confirmed almost daily by reports in the news media of public confusion and outrage at inequitable relocation policies. In the *Portland Oregonian* of July 7, 1967, for example, there