nothing further was due and that all eligible moving expenses had been paid. She then complained that a former neighbor couple (we will call them the Browns) received, in addition to moving expenses, a check for $500.

We tried to explain to Mrs. Smith that, because the Browns were now primarily supported by social security, while her husband was still employed, and, because of the difference in their respective incomes, the Browns were entitled to the relocation adjustment payment but she was not. Mrs. Smith protested, however, that the Browns were far better off financially than she and her husband. The Browns had money in the bank, lived well, and had previously owned their home free and clear. Furthermore, when the city purchased their home, they bought a better one, also free and clear of any mortgage. "On the other hand," protested Mrs. Smith, "we were never able to afford even the down-payment on a home. If the purpose of the relocation adjustment payment was to help meet the monthly payments for decent housing, we need it a lot more. The Browns have practically nothing to pay each month, yet they received a large cash amount and we get nothing. It's not fair."

We feebly explained that we were only administering the laws and regulations as they were written. This was not our first complaint concerning relocation adjustment payments. And administrators and relocation personnel in many other communities report similar problems.

THE LEGISLATION

Relocation adjustment payments were authorized by Section 114(c)(2) of a 1964 amendment to the Housing Act of 1949. The original purpose of the payment, as proposed by President Johnson, was to provide a rent supplement to low-income families and elderly individuals who were unable to obtain facilities in public housing and who were unable to relocate into decent, safe, and sanitary housing at a price they could afford. It was based on the concept that such persons could generally afford 20 percent of their income for rent, leaving them in need of some financial assistance to obtain the desired housing. The intent of the payment was commendable * * * but the resulting legislation was so poorly drawn that it constantly plagues local administrators.

Each year, various individuals, organizations, government agencies, and Congress study and propose amendments to the 1949 Housing Act. Prior to adoption, there are lengthy hearings by Senate and House committees, which are followed by legislative haggling and compromise. Oftimes, the resulting law that emerges from these processes is vastly different from that originally proposed.

Section 114(c)(2) of the act provides that: "A local public agency may pay [in addition to reasonable moving expenses], on behalf of any displaced family or any displaced individual sixty-two years of age or over, during the first five months after displacement, a relocation adjustment payment, not to exceed $500, to assist such displaced individual or family to acquire a decent, safe, and sanitary dwelling. The relocation adjustment payment shall be an amount which, when added to 20 per centum of the annual income of the displaced individual or family at the time of displacement, equals the average rental required, for a 12-month period, for such a decent, safe, and sanitary dwelling of modest standards adequate in size to accommodate the displaced individual or family (in the urban renewal area or in other areas not generally less desirable in regard to public utilities and public and commercial facilities): *Provided,* That such payment shall be made only to an individual or family who is unable to secure a dwelling unit in a low-rent housing project assisted under the United States Housing Act of 1937, or under a State or local program found by the Administrator to have the same general purposes as the Federal program under such Act: *Provided further,* That payments under this paragraph shall be available only in the case of families, and individuals sixty-two years of age or over, displaced on or after January 27, 1964."

FORMULATING REGULATIONS

Although the amendment was signed by the President on September 3, 1964, it took almost five months for the Housing and Home Finance Agency to formulate the necessary policies and requirements, released as *Local Public Agency Letter* 321 on January 13, 1965.

The issuance of this *LPA Letter,* titled "Relocation Adjustment Payments and Small Business Displacement Payments," followed regional conferences held by HHFA with local administrators and technicians in order to obtain their viewpoints and recommendations. This was one of the few instances that local agency personnel were asked for their opinions concerning pending regulations.