

Some of the families I have worked with in Northwest One has made at least three moves since they left the site in 1965. Some have moved since 1966, and so on.

There have been many families that split up because of urban renewal. They were living already in overcrowded conditions, they could not find a house maybe as large that they could afford, so maybe a daughter or a son in their late teens would move into another place, giving the mother and father a chance to move into a home.

As a result, this money is taken out of the home and they are struggling with the high rents, plus the utilities. In substandard housing the utilities are so high that many of us find ourselves in urban renewal areas trying to make a decision: what will we pay this month, our utilities or our rent. You cannot live without heat in the wintertime, and because of the openness of the home you find the rent—the utilities very high. I myself have had to purchase 100 gallons of oil a week. This averaged around \$70 a month. This is very high money for a family even if the husband and wife can work.

I would like to mention a little bit here about public housing. Living arrangements appear to be a continuing major cause of ineligibility for families trying to get into public housing. This includes nonmarriages, as well as inclusion in the family unit of persons not related by blood marriage. National Capital Housing Authority will accept common law marriage, but refuses to extend eligibility to families whose heads are barred from a legal relationship—i.e., one partner separated from but legally married to another—although they have been living in a stable relationship for a long period of time.

Also, the interpretation of regulations bars elderly people of opposite sex who are living in a companionship or housekeeping arrangement. It is believed that a substantial number of old people are barred from housing for the elderly because of this ruling.

The inclusion in family units of persons not related by blood or marriage has served to disqualify some families. This may include children and elderly single persons as well as mentally or physically handicapped or incompetent persons.

We have one family that is not eligible because it includes a lady who had been a ward of St. Elizabeths Hospital. She has to live with someone. This lady is not related to the family so she is not eligible. Fake children, for instance, a child that you have not legally adopted, but you have probably had since infancy. You cannot be moved into public housing since you are not related. These kinds of problems seem so simple to the individual, but when it comes down to actually applying for public housing and filling out the papers, this is another problem.

A further recommendation to the urban renewal agency was to help families raise incomes.

Helping families receive benefits to which they are entitled (welfare and social security) and supplementing incomes through part-time employment does not solve problems of individuals and families with incomes too low to qualify for public housing. Among persons to be relocated from the path of the Center Leg Freeway and from the older section are some whose lack of earnings will bar them from public housing. Northwest One now has a number of families and individuals