

temporary occupancy. As noted in the question which follows, the Department recently issued new policies and procedures under which local agencies may purchase or lease mobile homes for the temporary relocation of displaced.

(4) I note that only last month your Department announced a new policy permitting the use of mobile homes as temporary housing facilities. Have mobile homes not been used for this purpose prior to this time?

The Department had not heretofore authorized the use of mobile homes for temporary relocation, although they have been used for this purpose in connection with disasters.

(5) Would use of this kind of temporary housing making more feasible the relocation in one urban renewal area of the same families that were displaced from that area?

The use of mobile homes as temporary relocation housing would facilitate relocation in an urban renewal area of the same families that were displaced from that area. This is one of the principal reasons for issuing the new policy. The use of mobile homes permits families to remain on or near the site while housing for their permanent use is being constructed or rehabilitated.

III. PRIOR AVAILABILITY OF RELOCATION HOUSING

In 1965 the Housing Act of 1949 was amended by the following addition to Sec. 105(c):

"Sec. 105(c) (2). As a condition to further assistance after the enactment of this paragraph with respect to each urban renewal project involving the displacement of individuals and families, the Administrator shall require, within a reasonable time prior to actual displacement, satisfactory assurance by the local public agency that decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings as required by the first sentence of this subsection *are available for the relocation of each such individual or family.*"

Questions

(1) What has been the effect of this new provision?

We require local public agencies to re-examine their available relocation resources as they approach the beginning of actual displacement. Accordingly, not more than 60 days prior to the estimated date of the commencement of actual displacement of a substantial number of individuals and families, the local agency must provide assurance that the information on relocation housing submitted to HUD at the time of loan and grant contract is still valid. This is important because significant changes can occur during the period which may have elapsed between loan and grant contract and commencement of actual displacement.

(2) Does it offer assurance that suitable relocation housing will in fact be made available to each displaced individual or family?

HUD policies have always provided that families in urban renewal areas not be required to move, except on a temporary basis, unless they are given an opportunity to obtain adequate housing within their financial means. This new provision reinforced this policy by requiring the local public agency to re-evaluate the availability of relocation housing shortly before displacement is to occur.

(3) Has it resulted in an improvement in performance by local public agencies in carrying out their relocation responsibilities?

The requirement in section 105(c) (2) together with more stringent HUD controls has, in our view, resulted in an improvement in the performance of local public agencies in carrying out their relocation responsibilities.

(4) How do you check local agency performance to see that these assurances are actually carried out?

Within the limits of available staff, Regional Office personnel visit localities having active programs that will involve displacement and relocation. Any complaints or other indication that a local public agency is not carrying out its relocation responsibilities are promptly investigated and remedial action is required where appropriate. Our review of reports on relocation activities also enables us to monitor local agency performance.

IV. SHORTAGE OF RELOCATION HOUSING

The Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, in its study of the relocation problem, said that the difficulty most frequently encountered was "lack of adequate supply of standard housing, particularly for large, low-income and nonwhite families." The testimony taken by this Subcommittee would cer