

Our regulations do not include this item as payment to relocated businesses.

This item as written is somewhat vague and apparently is intended to accomplish a purpose similar to the relocation allowance in recommendation 1(c). If this is the case then we heartily endorse this type of allowance. The amount of the allowance is however something on which we have no information or background. Further study may be required to determine an equitable allowance in this case.

RECOMMENDATION 3—RELOCATION PAYMENTS FOR FARMS

Our regulations make no allowance for farms, since the District of Columbia is entirely an Urban Area.

RECOMMENDATION 4—RELOCATION ADVISORY ASSISTANCE

The Relocation Regulations of the District of Columbia approved by the Board of Commissioners and made effective March 31, 1966 are carried out by the District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency under a Relocation Cooperative Agreement dated December 8, 1964. (D.C.F.A. 2610). Our enabling legislation and regulations provide extensive relocation advisory assistance and I am confident that we comply with the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 5—PROJECT RELOCATION PLAN

This recommendation provides that after July 1, 1968 that an acceptable relocation plan for each Federal-Aid Project be prepared.

Our regulations do not fully comply with this recommendation, I do feel, however, that under the present operation of the District's relocation procedures that we fully comply with the spirit and intent of the recommendation, at least with respect to the most difficult relocation problems.

As you may know Section 3 of the October 1964 Congressional Act provides that:

"Prior to the acquisition of real property for any public works project of the government of the District of Columbia the Commissioners shall make the same determination with respect to the availability of housing for displaced individuals and families as is required by Section 8(a) of the District of Columbia Redevelopment Act of 1945 (D. C. Code, Sec. 5-707(a))." And title 5-707(a) of the District of Columbia Code 1967 Edition states that:

"(a) Prior to approval by the District Commissioners, pursuant to subparagraph (2) of section 5-707(b), of any redevelopment plan, the District Commissioners shall satisfy themselves (and shall so state at the public hearing required by such subparagraph) that decent, safe, and sanitary housing, substantially equal in quantity to the number of substandard dwelling units to be removed or demolished within the project area, under the proposed redevelopment plan, are available or will be provided (by construction pursuant to the redevelopment plan, or otherwise) in localities, and at rents or prices, within the reach of the low-income families displaced or to be displaced (temporarily or permanently), pursuant to the redevelopment plan, from the project area."

I do feel that under the Act of Congress and the D. C. Code mentioned above, under which we operate, that all aspects of (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) are taken into consideration at the appropriate time and prior to any acquisition.

It would seem that to make a Relocation Plan, such as is recommended will create a number of serious problems and delays in our highway program. In particular if this requirement were to be extended to cover all planned alternate locations of a route the logistical problems involved would be impossible to overcome. If the plan is to be submitted, however, only on the finally adopted line and only just prior to acquisition, then the District could possibly comply.

RECOMMENDATION 6—NEW RELOCATION HOUSING

This recommendation provides for coordination with appropriate Federal, State and Local agencies regarding new housing.

Our regulations do not specifically state that this coordination is to take place. However, the Redevelopment Land Agency acting through our Relocation Cooperative Agreement, have procedures whereby they coordinate the relocation program with all Federal and District agencies involved in housing as related to low-income families.