

sources available in order to attain those goals. For instance, we have 300,000, I believe, is the number of—233,000, and we have a program of attaining a total of 26 million units over the next 10 years of all residential property.

Have you given thought to the question as to whether or not we have the resources to attain those goals?

Mr. WILLIAMS. I think I would like to comment on that in another connection, too.

Senator SPARKMAN. Please do.

Mr. WILLIAMS. I think we don't have the resources, and I think we would have trouble producing more than the 1.6 million houses I am talking about for 1969.

Senator SPARKMAN. You are measuring it by what, manpower?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes. I think skilled manpower is tight in housing, and I think that it is important to open up the construction trades to new entrants. I think it is very important to make these employment opportunities available to minority groups. This will help solve their unemployment problem and also will provide the human resources to construct these large numbers of housing units that you are talking about.

Senator SPARKMAN. I heard Secretary of Housing Romney on one of the national programs yesterday, in which he said that the thing we needed was organizing, organizing our resources in order that we could meet the goals that have been set. In the past he has made some rather pessimistic statements about not being able to reach those goals.

It seemed there was some modification in what he had to say yesterday, to the effect that we needed to—we had to organize quite efficiently in order to meet these goals.

Would you think that could be done with reference, for instance, to the manpower problem?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Referring to the manpower situation in housing, if you look at the data in my table 1, line 3, showing the number of private housing starts going back to 1964, you see that this is a very volatile industry. In 1966 housing starts declined to 1.16 million, and to some degree the supply of skilled labor—

Senator PROXMIRE. What line is that?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Line 3, table 1.

Senator SPARKMAN. Line 3, "private housing starts"?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes.

Senator SPARKMAN. Yes.

Mr. WILLIAMS. This is a very volatile series, and the supply of skilled labor, I think, has not increased very much. Construction workers tended to drift away into other pursuits, so that we do not have the resources of skilled labor to produce many more than the 1.5 to 1.6 million units that we are talking about, and to increase that number by another million would require development of many more skilled workers.

Senator SPARKMAN. My time is up but I just want to throw out this thought that maybe we can't do it, but we are going to have to do it if we are to provide homes for the new family formations and replace those that are destroyed, torn down, worn out in this country. So we have a job on our hands.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes.