



TUCKER

Meeting Black Housing Needs — A Call For Action

By William R. Morris, A.S.P.C. Washington Housing Consultant

If the Reagan Administration has its way — and the signs are that they will — all federal housing subsidy programs that help the poor, will be phased-out within the next two to three years. To take their place, a new housing "voucher" program will be substituted for the "very poor" who are lucky enough to secure them. There also is serious talk in Washington about terminating community development block grants, turning FHA mortgage insurance programs over to private industry, and cancelling HUD's housing production programs.

Never before in recent memory have housing opportunities for America's black population been as threatened as they are today. Yet there's been no great outcry from blacks generally nor any significant protest coming out of the national organizations which represent their interests.

The harsh reality of what is taking place that adversely affects housing for blacks as a direct result of Reagan's domestic policies is yet to be faced by the country's black leadership in ways which make practical and political sense. The clock is running on any meaningful actions that might be taken to forestall a complete wipeout of long-standing federal housing programs that have helped minorities and the poor. Once they're gone, however, they'll never return!

And, as if that isn't

enough, the administration's open retreat from full enforcement of civil rights laws is making it even more difficult for the vast majority of blacks to move into better housing and to preserve their hard-won rights to live where they choose.

It should be very clear by now that the cost of housing and high interest rates have combined to drive most blacks in the nation completely out of the housing market. Newly married couples and working-class families are no longer able to afford to buy a home these days and others who must rent are quickly finding that decent and affordable apartments are rapidly disappearing from the scene. For large families and elderly persons on fixed incomes, the situation is desperate.

The normal supply of "trickle-down" housing which lower income persons have traditionally relied on the meet their needs just isn't available anymore; new housing construction has dropped to its lowest level since World War II; and middle income families — rather than pay today's high cost of housing — are staying where they are. Investors and speculators, seeking to take advantage of inflationary prices, are buying up more and more of the better rental projects for conversion to condominiums.

Once again, the White House Office of Management and Budget is proposing sharp budget cuts for fiscal year 1983 (beginning October 1982), and an im-

mediate rescission [cut off] of funds for housing programs already approved for the coming year. OMB's proposals will bring to a dead halt any progress toward meeting the government's basic and long-held commitment of a decent and affordable home in a suitable living environment for (all) Americans.

OMB would have Congress implement no new commitments to Federal housing assistance after October 1982; no further modernization of public housing, total elimination of the housing counseling program, termination of the direct loan program for elderly housing, a complete phaseout of community development block grants and urban development action grants by the end 1983, and rescission of 1982 funds for all Section 8 New Construction and Substantial Rehabilitation projects.

Consumer Housing Assistance Grants (vouchers), good for only five years and with no increases for inflation, averaging about \$1,800 per household per year, would be issued through local public housing agencies, under the proposed plan. Some \$4 million in funds already authorized for Fair Housing will be rescinded, if OMB gets its way.

Whether we want face to facts or not, the stark reality is that black people in both urban and rural communities are being confronted with the most critical housing crisis since the 1930s depression days... and there is no relief in sight.

The worst is yet to come as the full effects of these cutbacks are felt at the local community level.

The nation must not forget that it was poor housing conditions which contributed heavily to widespread rioting and burning of the cities during the 1960s. Something must be done, and quickly, or Americans of all races and economic classes may wake up one day to find the progress that has been made in solving racial problems in this country going down the drain — all because we waited too long.

Readers should write, wire or call their representatives in the House and Senate to let them know their feelings. And while you're at it, give a call to the national offices of the NAACP and National Urban League in New York City and the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington to urge their immediate action. The Reagan Administration's plans to get the government entirely out of housing must be prevented! Don't wait, you can bet the White House isn't.

Premier Of "Rhapsody" Performed In New Jersey

The World Premier of Michael B. Tucker's "Rhapsody" for alto flute and string quartet, highlighted the January 22 concert of the New Jersey Chamber Music Society. Tucker was awarded a grant by the New Jersey State Council of Arts, enabling him to compose this new chamber work especially for the Society, and particularly for the talents of the Society's flutist and co-artistic director, Ms. Peggy Schecter.

Born in Durham, N.C., and now residing in East Orange, New Jersey, Tucker's training and experience include the classics, gospel, rock and jazz, emerging from his melange of associations in what *Downbeat* describes as "an astonishing fresh and mature voice which is destined to become increasingly influential."

Tucker has previously been heard with the New Jersey Chamber Music Society in his role as jazz pianist, performing the Suite for Flute and Jazz Trio by Claude Bolling.

His new collaboration with the group introduced him to Society audiences as composer. A grant from "Meet the Composer" made it possible for him to attend the premier and to discuss his composition with the audience.

Participating artists were: Ms. Peggy Schecter, flute; Gerald Appleman, cello; Ms. Janet Lyman Hill, viola; Masao Kawasaki, violin; Ms. Bernice Silk, piano; and, Naoko Tanak, violin.

Among the larger works, Tucker has written a three-movement piece for four saxophones and orchestra, which is due for a premiere in Norway. Tucker was a featured performer on the Black Cultural Arts Program during Durham's Centennial celebration on April 28, 1981.

Tucker is a former student of Hillside High School and Early Admission Student to Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia, graduating in the Class of 1961.

Better Homes & Gardens Club

Mrs. Louise Jenkins was hostess to the recent meeting of the Better Homes & Gardens Club.

Mrs. Ella Brown, president, presided. Devotional leader, Mrs. Magnolia Eings, in celebration of "Love Month", led songs and read poems expressing love.

Business included discussion of recent Garden Clubs of Durham Council meeting. The club voted to adopt an area in the 2300 block of Fayetteville Street as its project in conjunction with the Council's action.

BH&G Club will host the May Council meeting. Volunteers for the Workshop Committee are: Mrs. Beulah Hill, Mrs. Ella Brown and Miss Coral Dalton.

Treasury reports were received from Mrs. Helen Brown and Mrs. Catherine Page. The group discussed attending the Home and Garden Show, February 20-28, at the Raleigh Civic Center; Southern Living Show, Feb. 27-March 7 at Merchandise Mart in Charlotte, and the Annual Men's Show, March 13-14.

Love gifts were in the form of a tasting party. Each member brought her favorite dish and shared the recipe which made a delicious and varied spread of goodies.

Participating were Mesdames Thomasina Shaw, Magnolia Eings, Ella Brown, Minnie Cromartie, Frances Watson, Mable Bryant, Patricia Tilley, Ella Floyd, Gladys Dawkins, Annie Green, Helen Brown, Alberta Harris, Catherine Page, Beulah Hill, Ethel Taylor, Martha Dalton, Louise Jenkins, Carrie Vereen and Miss Coral Dalton.

Celebrating birthdays this month are: Mesdames Annie Green, Ella Brown, Minnie Cromartie, Patricia Tilley and Carrie Vereen.

Mrs. Eings thanked the hostess.

Thank You
The Family of the late Mrs. Ada E. Davis gratefully acknowledges your kindnesses and expression of sympathy during the illness and interment of their mother, grandmother and in-law.
Harrison W. Davis
Leo A. Davis
Margo Davis Harper
Rosada Davis Layne
Marilyn Davis Eggleston
Alice J. Davis
Dorothy C. Davis

Pancake Supper At St. Titus Tuesday

St. Titus Episcopal Church will sponsor its Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 23, 5:30-8 p.m., at the church, 400 Moline Street. The public is invited to participate.

Where Has Winter Gone?

By Elson Armstrong, Jr.
You don't need the weatherman to tell you that the past few days have been more reminiscent of late March or early April than late February.

The temperatures have been close to 70° and warm, showery weather has taken hold over the area.

You may wonder just what happened to all that snow, ice, and frigid weather that socked us in for most of January.

First, our old friend the Jet Stream — that high altitude belt of air that controls the air masses over North America — has taken a northerly course over Canada. This has taken the bulk of the frigid air to the far north and has allowed the warmer Gulf of Mexico air to take a

hold over the Carolinas.

The winter storm track is now running from the Pacific Northwest southeastward to Texas, along the Gulf of Mexico, northeastward over the Carolinas, and finally out into the Atlantic.

This has accounted for the numerous rainy days which have broken the back of the two-year-old North Carolina drought.

Whether the frigid weather of winter is gone for good is highly unlikely. After all, it's still February and March has been known to release monster snow storms in this area. The fickle Jet Stream could change again and bring the "North Pole" south again. But for now, winter is giving us a much-deserved rest. We should make the most of it!

Thrifty Service Club Observes 22nd Anniversary

The Thrifty Service Club held its 22nd anniversary in Union Baptist Church Sunday, February 14. Mrs. Milie L. Williams presided.

Dr. Grady D. Davis, the preacher of the hour, delivered an inspiring message. Music was rendered by the Grady Davis Choir. Love gifts were presented to Mesdames Aline Davis, Mozell Flintall, Rozetta Cobb, Milie Williams, Beatrice Holman and Dr. Davis.

Members present were: Mesdames, Retha Core, Lula M. Hester, Pauline Boxley, Bettie Pratt, Queen Cooper, Althea Davis, Beatrice Holman, Alice Wilson, Elizabeth Edwards, Stattie Russ, Pauline Hart, Marie Harris, Genevieve Rogers, Mary Vanhook, Luna J. Holman, Milie L. Williams, Christine Sales, Vergie Mangum, Mozell Flintall, Elnora Ransom, Mattie Jones, Rozetta Cobb, Willie M. James, Irene Hall, Laura Thorpe, Pearl M. Walker, Annie Alston, Mable Bryant, Aldena Mebane, Montez Bagley, Mattie Pugh, Minnie Cromartie, Ethel Charles, Dorothy L. Glover, Mildred Gattis, Elizabeth Jones, Lillie Adams, Ozell Flowers, Naomi Melvin.

Guest groups were: The Hospitality Committee, the Willing Workers Missionary Circle, the Mt. Zion Floral Club, the Pastor's Aid Club and the Friendly Ladies Club.

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Regional Bridge Tourney Held

College View Bridge Club, an affiliate of the American Bridge Association, held its Grade B Regional Tournament on February 13-14, at the John Avery Boys Club in Durham.

In the Open Pair on Saturday, the winners were:

First Overall - Hamlet Wilkins and Mickey Burnim.

Second Overall - Mary and Randolph Young.

The first place Swiss Team winners on Sunday were: Team No. 4 composed of Fred McNeill and Dorothy Mewborn and Mary and Randolph Young.

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