

THE COMMITTEE AGAINST NEGRO AND PUERTO RICAN REMOVAL

40 12th Avenue
Newark, New Jersey

Mrs. Louise Epperson, Chairman
Mr. Eulis Ward, Co-Chairman

Harry L. Wheeler, Coordinator

For immediate release

November 27, 1967

Newark, New Jersey-----Mrs. Louise Epperson and Mr. Eulis Ward, Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Committee Against Negro and Puerto Rican Removal and Mr. Junious Williams and Mr. Phillip Hutchings, Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Newark Area Planning Association today announced--in a joint statement--that they had sent a telegram to the Honorable Robert C. Weaver, Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development demanding a cessation of "all Urban Renewal programs in **the** city of Newark, involving the displacement of persons on the grounds that the estimates of the relocation resources submitted by the Newark Housing Authority are in fact fraudulent..."

Mrs. Epperson and Messrs. Hutchings, Ward and Williams, stated, "We demand that the Department of Housing and Urban Development reject the amendatory application submitted by the Newark Housing Authority, for a change in the re-use plan for the Fairmount N. J. R-72, until such time as public hearings are held as required by the regulations governing changes in approved Urban Renewal plans, contained in the Urban Renewal manual."

Mrs. Epperson and Messrs. Hutchings, Ward and Williams, further stated, "We demand that the part one application for an Urban Renewal grant, for the proposed Medical School Urban Renewal project, R-196, submitted by the Newark Housing Authority, be rejected and returned to the LPA, since the city of Newark has no legal right to submit, and HUD, no legal right to accept or approve an application submitted prior to the final actions of the local planning board and the governing body, declaring the land blighted."

Mrs. Epperson and Messrs. Hutchings, Ward and Williams, added: "We wish to go on record being unalterably opposed to the use of 150 acres of land for the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry, which is far in excess of any reasonable need."

Mrs. Epperson and Messrs. Hutchings, Ward and Williams, concluded: "We are prepared to substantiate the aforementioned allegations."

—30—

A copy of the telegram sent to the Honorable Robert C. Weaver is attached.

Moreover, the personages to whom a copy of the telegram was forwarded are listed below:

1. Mr. Warren Phelan, Regional Administrator, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Philadelphia Regional Office, Widener Building, 1339 Chestnut Street, Phila., Pa.
2. Mr. Harry Sharrott, Deputy Administrator, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Philadelphia Regional Office, Widener Building, 1339 Chestnut Street, Phila., Pa.
3. Michael Davidson, Esq., Assistant Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, 10 Columbus Circle, New York, N. Y.
4. Mr. Neil Gold, Department of Urban Planning, Hunter College, 790 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.
5. Mr. Harry McPherson, Special Counsel to the President of the United States, Office of the President, Washington, D. C.
6. Mr. Walter Giese, Staff Director, President's Committee on Equal Opportunity in Housing, Washington, D. C.
7. Mr. William L. Taylor, Staff Director, United States Commission on Civil Rights, Washington, D. C.
8. Mr. Roger W. Wilkins, Director, United States Community Relations Service, Washington, D. C.
9. Mr. Pat Goeters, School of Architecture, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

Copy of telegram to the Honorable Robert C. Weaver

Friday, November 24, 1967

Honorable Robert C. Weaver
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Weaver:

The Committee Against Negro and Puerto Rican Removal and the Newark Area Planning Association hereby petition and demand that the Department of Housing and Urban Development reject the amendatory application submitted by the Newark Housing Authority, for a change in the re-use plan for Fairmount N. J. R-72, until such time as public hearings are held as required by the regulations governing changes in approved Urban Renewal plans, contained in the Urban Renewal manual.

The amendatory application represents a major change because the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry intends, by plan, to start erecting structures on the acreage requested in the amendatory application. The citizenry of Newark must be given their right to express their views on this matter of land re-use!!

The Committee Against Negro and Puerto Rican Removal and the Newark Area Planning Association further petition and demand that the part one application for an Urban Renewal grant, for the proposed Medical School Urban Renewal project, R-196, submitted by the Newark Housing Authority, be rejected and returned to the LPA, since the city of Newark has no legal right to submit, and HUD, no legal right to accept or approve an application submitted prior to the final actions of the local planning board and the governing body, declaring the land blighted.

The Committee Against Negro and Puerto Rican Removal and the Newark Area Planning Association further petition and demand that HUD stop all Urban Renewal programs in the city of Newark, involving the displacement of persons, on the grounds that the

estimates of the relocation resources previously and currently submitted by the Newark Housing Authority were and are in fact fraudulent; and that the Newark Housing Authority is unable to provide standardized housing for the people who will be displaced by the Urban Renewal projects funded by your agency. In particular, the relocation plan contained in the N. J. R-196 application, is replete with inaccurate and fraudulent data.

In addition, we wish to go on record being unalterably opposed to the use of 150 acres of land for the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry, which is far in excess of any reasonable need. Any Federal action in this area must be directed at the existing contract between the city of Newark and the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry for the 150 acres of land.

We are prepared to substantiate the above allegations.

For the Committee Against Negro and Puerto Rican Removal:

Mrs. Louise Epperson, Chairman
Mr. Eulis Ward, Co-Chairman

For the Newark Area Planning Association:

Mr. Junious Williams, Chairman
Mr. Phillip Hutchings, Co-Chairman

Copies to:

Harry Sharrott, Deputy Administrator, Philadelphia Regional Office, HUD,
Widener Building, Chestnut Street, Phila. Pa.

Warren Phelan, Administrator, Philadelphia Regional Office, HUD, Widener
Building, Chestnut Street, Phila., Pa.

Michael Davidson, Assistant Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, New York, N.Y.

Neil Gold, Department of Urban Planning, Hunter College, New York, N. Y.

Harry McPherson, Special Counsel to the President of the United States,
Office of the President, Washington, D. C.

Walter Giesey, Staff Director, President's Committee on Equal Opportunity
in Housing, Washington, D. C.

William L. Taylor, Staff Director, United States Commission on Civil Rights,
Washington, D. C.

Roger W. Wilkins, Director, United States Community Relations Services,
Washington, D. C.

Pat Goeters, Department of Architecture, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.