

excerpt from "The Voice of Stella Wright Christian Community" , Oct 28, 1969

PROGRESS OF MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

Modernization Program is a program involving 7 million dollars to be spent on improving the physical structure of four housing projects in Newark: Stella Wright, Scudder, Hayes, and Kretchemer.

There are three groups involved in this program. All three are vitally important and must work together.

- 1) HUD (Housing and Urban Development) This is the arm of the Federal Government which is funding this program. The money has already been committed to Newark Housing for this program; however, the spending of this money is subject to constant scrutiny and approval of HUD.
- 2) NEWARK HOUSING AUTHORITY which comes under the regional office of HUD in Philadelphia, realizing that certain improvements were absolutely necessary for the above mentioned projects, drew up the Modernization proposal (reportedly in conjunction with tenants from these projects) and requested the money from HUD. Newark Housing Authority is supposed to have, or be able to get, the technical know-how to carry out this program. Mr. Joseph Sivoletta, Executive Director of N.H.A., has appointed Mr. Robert Marasco coordinator of the Modernization Program.
- 3) The third part of the triangle that goes into bringing the Modernization Program into existence is the tenants themselves. One of the requirements from HUD is that NHA work together with the tenants---from start to finish---in bringing about this program. The tenants are supposed to be the ones who state which improvements are most necessary, which should be done first and how each one should be done.

NHA has chosen Herbert Southern of Rahway as the architect for Stella Wright. The firm of Brown and Hale will do the architectural work for the other three projects.

On Wednesday, October 8, Mr. Southern met with some tenants to discuss the work he will do at Stella Wright. Mr. Rizzilio, Mr. Bland, and Mr. Marasco were also present. Mr. Southern said that in about 30 days from that night he will have the preliminary plans for the improvements drawn up. At that time he will meet with all interested tenants for their suggestions and/or approval. Sixty days after that meeting the final plans will be completed. They will then be submitted to NHA and then to HUD for approval. After they return from HUD the work will begin.

The funds granted for the Modernization Program are granted once. When they are used up, there will be no more. Some of the funds have already been allocated to pay for the laundry room, the peepholes, the directories in the building lobbies, and for a crash program to take care of the backlog of ordinary repairs in the building. The rest of the money will be spent on the following items:

Ground Restoration
Fencing
Resurface parking area
Playground equipment
Site lighting
Lights in public halls and stairs
Glaze paint stair soffits
Brick up stairhall windows and install
decorative panels
Unbreakable glass--entrances
Terrazo floors in lobbies
Scout and 4H Rooms

Sliding elevator doors
Tile exterior entrance walls
Rehabilitate elevator cabs
New elevator controls
Install lights in community
auditorium
Ventilating system in boiler room
Brick up basement windows
Meeting room facilities
Sitting area shelter
Teenage room
Day Care Center

A final word on the Modernization Program

Three groups are supposed to be involved in it. It is easy to tell who Newark Housing Authority is and who HUD is. It is not easy to tell who the tenants are, for we are not together. Until we come together into a strong, unified group we will continue to suffer and to lose opportunities for the betterment of our community.