

On Poverty Tour

Mayor Promises Slumlord Action

By JOHN L. DOTSON JR.

Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio yesterday said he will study as a possible weapon against Newark's slumlords an ordinance to ban re-renting of substandard apartments.

The proposal came during a two-hour inspection tour of "slum pockets" in the Central Ward and Clinton Hill areas. Addonizio was accompanied by several city officials as the group visited a number of dilapidated apartments.

The mayor had announced the slum tour last week as part of a new administration anti-poverty drive.

Following the tour, the mayor said he would ask Norman Schiff, city corporation counsel, to check into the possibilities of an ordinance banning re-renting of all apartments where violations of the city housing code exist.

He also said he will request Chief Magistrate Nicholas Castellano to place the city's housing court on a full-time basis to clear the backlog of housing complaints. Addonizio said he had made such a request months ago, but that Magistrate Castellano had failed to move on it.

May Ask More Judges

That failing, the mayor said, he will ask the city council to consider increasing the city's staff of judges to provide a permanent housing court.

Addonizio also assigned Deputy Mayor Paul Reilly to personally process all housing complaints through the city's agencies and into the municipal courts, if necessary.

Earlier in the day, Addonizio met with about 25 members of the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council on housing problems in that group's area. The council had demonstrated on Saturday outside two buildings, which it claimed were the worst offenders of city codes in the neighborhood.

The mayor included the two Clinton Hill apartments on his tour, but concentrated mainly on a block of run-down buildings in the Central Ward.

In the single block of Hunterdon Street between Waverly Avenue and Rose Street, he found dead rats outside the door of one apartment and roaches

mediately. The owner of the stable and junkyard were directed to clean up or be taken to court. The city wrecker was ordered to remove the two abandoned vehicles. Garbage was removed from several sites, both in the Central Ward and Clinton Hill neighborhoods.

Addonizio asked on several occasions during the tour whether the violations were bad enough to cause the city to condemn the properties. But, Edward Sepe, acting chief of rehabilitation and conservation, said "no" each time.

Many of the Negro residents made strenuous complaints to the touring party, but some simply went about their chores as the group walked through their apartments. Central Ward Councilman Irvine Turner, a Negro, introduced the group to the residents.

Complaining Tenants

"How do you like this high class neighborhood with its high class rents, mayor," asked Mrs. Virginia Jones of 484 Hunterdon St. She said it was impossible to clean up the neighborhood because there was no cooperation from the landlords and some of the tenants.

She said her rent for four rooms was \$75 a month. Another woman said she paid \$85 a month for five rooms, with no heat.

In the Clinton Hill neighborhood, Dr. Pascal J. Baioccho, director of Health and Welfare, said city inspectors found 150 violations at 406 Clinton Ave. last Friday. Residents there said the landlord had already begun to make repairs following the inspection.