Slums
Some Get Out,
Some Won’t Go,
Many Can’t Go

MRS. ANDERSON AND SAMI LU
By CLIFF ELLNER

Harman's Alley is a dead-end street.
It is much of Hagerstown's Negro housing.

It has opened up a little since the city open housing ordinance was passed on March 30.

But not much.

On July 30, Sami Lu Anderson made her entrance into the world at the Washington County Hospital. Sami Lu is about a month old. She lives with her parents in a four-room apartment in Harman's Alley. Three doors away, the housing inspectors have posted a sign which says, "Danger—This building is unsafe for occupancy."

Early in August, the end apartment was condemned when James E. Henderson, who lived there, almost burned the place down when he started a fire in his refrigerator to get rid of the maggots.

There is no bathroom in Sami Lu's home. Her mom washes her in the kitchen sink and hopes the water won't be too cold. The rent is $30 a month.

The toilet is behind the building, in a wooden closet. It is dirty. It stinks.

"I've seen housing I wouldn't let a dog of mine live in," says Thurston Kelmer, one of the city's two housing inspectors.

The inspectors and welfare workers have notebooks full of horror stories about Hagerstown's ghetto housing.

One of them tells about the house on Jonathan St. which has one bathroom for five families. An elderly woman who lives in the building uses a slop jar in her bedroom because the bathroom is always being used when she needs it.

Welfare worker Bob Hull tells about a story frame houses on Church St. and Berkshire Ave. crammed with 12 to 14 people.

To anyone who walks through the Jonathan St. neighborhood, it is painfully obvious that Hagerstown has a crisis.

Take the woman who sits in front of 50% Harman Alley and shows flies away.

"I can't have any heat this winter," she'll tell you, "if they don't fix the chimney." But her landlord is in Texas and she says she has no choice but to pay the $30-a-month rent.

She takes her baths in a tin tub. She has to heat the water on the stove first. The toilet is in a small closet.

50% Harman's Alley has roaches. It stinks.

"There was nowhere else to go," Sami Lu Anderson's mother said as she sat on a worn sofa in her sweltering front room.

According to Housing Inspector Walter Nye, the Harman estate—which owns some property in Harman's Alley—had "agreed to tear down their property in the alley after Walnut Towers, the new public housing for the elderly, was finished."

But if and when slum dwellings are demolished, there is always the problem of finding new housing for the economically-crippled families which live there.

"Where are you going to put the people now?" asks Inspector Nye. "You can't just set them out in the street."

Hagerstown's housing crisis is "as plain as the nose on your face," says Thurston Kelmer, also of the city's housing department.

It isn't to everybody.

"The conditions exist, that is true," James E. Henderson's welfare worker says.

Henderson burned the maggots out of his refrigerator at 56 Harman's Alley.

"And the city is trying to make progress. But such things take time. And I think people have to accept that fact."

"Slums," says welfare worker Bob Hull, "are profitable. And until we find a way to take the profit out of them, the problem will be with us."

Slum dwellers, on Jonathan St. and elsewhere in the city, are caught in a vicious cycle. Their landlords will sometimes improve their houses, but often the companion rent-increases are too high for the tenants to bear.

On the welfare scale adopted in February, 1965—and uniform throughout the state—the allowance for shelter for one person, living alone, with no utilities, comes to $31 a month. The hovels on Harman's Alley cost between $30 and $30 monthly.

The highest payment which the welfare department can make for shelter is $46 monthly, no matter what the family's size is. Welfare director Francis J. Connolly has admitted that the shelter scale is "inadequate."

If a welfare-dependent person can meet the rent with his shelter allowance the difference has to come out of his eating money.

"Nine out of ten tenants in substandard housing are welfare and social security people," housing inspector Thurston Kelmer says.

"The housing situation," Bob Hull says, "is getting more desperate every day. It's a fact. We need more houses."

Welfare workers, housing people, black clergymen, NAACP officials—all agree that part of Hagerstown's Negro housing dilemma could be relieved if more public, low-rent housing were available.

"Since the housing inspectors have been condemning these houses," says Paul Eberhart, manager of rents and occupancy for Hagerstown's housing authority, "we've had applications coming at us from all sides."

And the largest group of applications, he says, comes from residents of substandard houses.
Since public housing rents are scaled to income, Eberhart says that welfare recipients and social security dependents can afford them.

There are exceptions. A selection board rules out alcoholics and other undesirables. By a recent ruling unwed mothers can be accepted.

"We average somewhere around 40 applications a month," Eberhart says. "But there are only about five openings which we can fill."

clergyman, Keyes bought his 5-room home and broke the color bar in the North End. Since then, a handful of Negro families has joined him.

"Those who have moved out," he says, "will lead others."

Keyes is secretary of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He also acts on an informal house-finding committee in connection with the open-occupancy ordinance.

According to Curlin, the open-occupancy ordinance will do a lot to help Negroes move away from run-down housing on both sides of Jonathan St.

"We are getting full cooperation from the realtors, with the exception of only one, and he's coming around," Curlin said as he cut wood on a power saw in his workshop, behind his home on Bethel St. He's been retired for the past three and a half years.
Hagerstown has 370 public housing units, of which 150—those at Walnut Towers, which just opened—are for the elderly. But according to Thelma Powell, a program development aide with the Community Action Council, wholesale housing expansion isn't enough.

Something has to be done to heal the devastating psychological wounds of slum living.

A decent home, welfare's Roberta Carter, a social worker, points out, would help psychologically as well as physically.

"When they have something better to work with," she says, "they do better."

"You've got to help the slums out of the people," says crew leader, Bob Hull. But

"And that's not easy."

When the Hagerstown City Council met last March 19, it passed an ordinance which would, according to the city's Negro leadership, eventually disperse a community which has been in the same place for more than 130 years.

The move was designed "to eliminate discrimination in housing based on race, color, religious creed, ancestry, or national origin." A five-member panel has been set up to hear complaints stemming from the ordinance.

But there haven't been any complaints, according to the Rev. James H. Robinson, pastor of the Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, one of the commission's members.

"The realtors, as far as I know, are in full compliance with it," he says. "There have been several families who have moved and haven't experienced any difficulty."

"Families are moving out," says welfare worker Bob Hull, who has several clients in the Jonathan St. neighborhood. "It's limited—count 'em on your fingers and toes—but they're moving out."

That isn't the way it used to be, the Rev. Mr. Robinson says.

"A person coming into Hagerstown now should not experience some of the problems he would have, say, two years ago."

A prejudice-racked housing situation, the clergyman says, may account for the fact that Hagerstown has no Negro doctor, no lawyer, and only a few teachers.

"If a young couple wanted to get married and move into the area, I don't know of many properties they could find and change to suit their needs," the Rev. Mr. Robinson says. "We really just don't have enough rental properties."

That's the reason, he says, why the Jonathan St. area has been, to a large extent, a closed community ever since Negroes settled there. Rev. Mr. Robinson's own church, for example, dates from 1838.

Until recently, the boundaries have always been implicit—but very real.

Keyes Crossed The Tracks

A mile and a half on the other side (the "right side") of the railroad tracks, in a modern house in Carroll Heights, Reginald Keyes lives with his wife and 3-year-old son, Rick.

Two years ago this month, Keyes was the first Negro to move his family to the North End. According to Keyes, a Mack truck employee, the move wasn't easy.

"I wanted an apartment at first," he says. "I didn't want to buy a house. But none of the real estate people would rent to me."

"I didn't have much choice, at the time."

Through the intervention of a white lawyer, and only a few teachers.

"I don't seriously think that in the next 10 years there'll be a Negro community in the Jonathan St. area," says Leonard Curlin, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and a patriarch of the black community here.

"But I would be the last one to leave," he adds with a smile. "I'm like the captain of a ship."

REGINALD KEYES

... he moved out

... race cost as a down payment. This is true for most home-buyers who are not receiving FHA and Veterans' assistance.

"There's no use looking at a house if you don't have the money," Keyes says.

But the next 10 years, Keyes predicts, will see a substantial Negro exodus from the ghetto.

"I've talked to quite a few of the young people," he says. "They're saving their money."

He'd Be Last To Pull Out

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LEONARD CURLIN

... too close to move
City Sees Urban Renewal Agency, Planner In 1968

By PHIL EBERSOLE

Appointment of a planning director and staff and of an urban renewal commission are "anticipated" for 1968 in Hagerstown's proposed workable program for 1968.

The workable program, which was signed by Mayor Herman Mills and mailed on Wednesday, keeps Hagerstown eligible for funds of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for additional public housing and other HUD programs.

Anticipated Plans

The following projects, according to the workable program, are anticipated for 1968:

- Adoption of a completely new zoning ordinance in keeping with present development plans.
- The objective of renewal, airport improvement, rehabilitation of the A.M.E. Church housing project, a civic center, and Public Square Improvement.
- Capital improvement goals are listed as airport runway improvement, airport aircraft parking facilities, airport medium density approach lights, downtown parking facilities, a new North End fire station, disposal plant facilities, street improvements, and storm sewer improvements.
- Displaced Persons

Housing for displaced families is not yet a problem, but may come one in the future unless new housing is provided, the workable program states.

- New goals for the coming year listed by the workable program are code enforcement, urban renewal, airport improvement, water and sewer line extensions.
- Of the 266, it is estimated that 281 have incomes of less than $3,000 a year. The workable program states that 266 families will need new homes or apartments in existing housing.
- Of the 266, the workable program estimates that 366 families will need new homes—200 as a result of a contemplated Jonathan St. urban renewal project, 155 as the result of housing code enforcement, and 31 as the result of a contemplated A.M.E. Church housing project.

The workable program estimates that only five percent of these displaced families—some 31 homes in downtown existing housing units—will be able to find new homes.

"However, additional low income housing is desperately needed to house families displaced by elimination of substandard housing through code enforcement action, owner declaration and urban renewal," the program states. "In addition, substantial rehabilitation of basically sound structures with presently serious code violations is required to upgrade the city's housing stock. A co-operative agreement with the Federal Housing Assistance Administration for a survey and planning loan for an additional 250 low-rent housing units was signed April 16, 1968."

Past Accomplishments

During the previous year, the workable program states, the city government has adopted subdivision regulations; co-ordinated city and county planning commissions; spent $1,528,826 on long-range capital improvements for streets, alleys, drains, sewers, water and airport; hired two housing inspectors and started a concentrated housing inspection program; and appointed a parking authority.

During the past year, the city government made 228 building inspections, 1,938 plumbing inspections, 45 electrical inspections, 3,785 housing inspections and 300 fire inspections.

A housing appeals board has been appointed, the workable program states. Adoptions of a new civic center is in the planning stage.

New Long?

Milton L. Scott, the Philadelphia office of HUD, said it is impossible to say how long it will take to process the workable program. Approval is required first in the Philadelphia regional office and then in Washington.

Scott said that priority is given to processing workable programs when there are other pending projects which hinges on a workable program approval. Such a priority was requested in the cover letter which accompanied Hagerstown's workable program.

"If it is in good shape, you don't have too much to worry about," he said. "We'll do all we can to hurry it along."
Hell Drivers
To Risk Necks
At Local Fair

ONE OF THE NATION'S top auto daredevil acts, Jack Kochman's Hell Drivers, will be featured as a free grandstand attraction on Wednesday and Thursday, August 10 and 11, at the 1966 Great Hagerstown Fair.

The show, consisting of 28 stunts, will be presented once each evening at 8:30 p.m., and will include thrill maneuvers as the bone-crunching, two-wheel drive and the program will be a ramp-to-rip 1965 model pick-up truck, feet through the air.

Announced that there will be seen in this grandstand attraction of 22 persons includes five

AND OVER

t drivers, plus mechanics, sets nine 1966 model cars, old flash and roll-over maneuvers, ant flatted trailer. Equipment - ice is valued at over $100,000.

Pony League
Tournament
Finals Set

Dick Barnoski, pitching his second win of the Pony League sectional tournament here Friday night, helped his Middletown, Pa., team into the final round with a 4-3 verdict over Dover, Del.

Middletown, once beaten in the double elimination tournament, meets undefeated Hagerstown tonight at 7 o'clock in a do-or-die affair. If Middletown loses, the tournament is over and the crown goes to Hagerstown. If Middletown wins, the same two teams will play again for the championship, with the game getting under way approximately 20 minutes after the finish of the first one.

Barnoski had a perfect game in the making last night, until he walked two consecutive batters in the sixth inning. Then Barnoski, the 5-foot-9 righthander, saw his no-hitter vanish in the seventh inning, when Dover erupted for three runs.

Middletown took a 2-0 lead in the opening inning as Barnoski singled and coasted home on innings. Barry Ulsh's opposite field home run.

The Pennsylvanians made it 3-0 in the second when Gino Dovskyy, Middletown, Fala

Another Middletown run in the fourth inning came on singles by Frank Ganiz and Stum and a wild pitch.

Dover came to life in the seventh when Zack Carter broke up Barnoski's no-hitter with a high chop infield single. Carter stole second and scored when Mark Whitley drove a single through the box. Ed Cowardale sacrificed Whitley to second and a wild pitch moved the runner to third. Jay Lockwood's hit drove Whitley home. Lockwood taking second on the play at the plate. Lockwood then moved to third on the catcher's throwing error and scored on a wild pitch.

With the settled down, two batters and a hit in the big inning, the previous 1-0 lead against Middletown.

Dover's runs put on a two-out single and a stretching one on a sacrifice bunt, two-out in the sixth inning. Barry Ulsh's opposite field home run.

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City Has Broad Open Housing Law

By PHIL EBERSOLE

Mayor Herman L. Mills has signed Hagerstown's open housing ordinance, giving Hagerstown the broadest open housing law in the state and one of the broadest in the nation.

The Mayor did not reveal that he had signed the ordinance until the last possible moment. About three-quarters of the way through the City Council meeting Tuesday night, Councilman Arthur G. Fouche asked the mayor if he had called a special meeting of the Council with his approval or disapproval.

"I've exercised it," replied Mayor Mills, and Fouche left the matter drop.

Actual implementation of the open housing ordinance will not begin until Mayor Mills appoints a five-man human relations commission to administer the ordinance.

There had been a widespread impression that the City Charter gives the Mayor 29 days to sign an ordinance, and some had expected Mayor Mills to wait two more days until the 29-day period is up. But Section Eight of the City Charter says the Mayor shall return ordinances "to the next general or special meeting of the Council with his approval or disapproval."

The ordinance forbids racial discrimination in the sale of houses on the open market, and in the rent of houses or apartment units (except for boarding houses and for owner-occupied apartments with less than five apartments.)

Charges of discrimination must be made in writing to the human relations commission set up under the ordinance. The human relations commission is directed to try to straighten the situation out by informal conciliatory processes, but, if this fails, it can subpoena witnesses, take testimony under oath, and issue binding orders.

Either party involved may appeal the decision of the human relations commission to the courts, and penalties for violation of the ordinance or of orders of the commission may be imposed only by the courts.

The ordinance passed in February by a 4-1 vote. However, if the Mayor had vetoed it, it is unlikely that the necessary four votes could be mustered to override his veto.

An open housing ordinance was formally proposed to the Mayor and Council by the Hagerstown Bi-Racial Commission, and was supported by a broad spectrum of groups, including the Washington County NAACP, the Washington County Teachers Association, and many church organizations.

The Mayor had come to a decision on the open housing ordinance. "I've exercised it," replied Mayor Mills, and Fouche left the matter drop. But after the meeting, when reporters asked him if he had signed the ordinance, Mayor Mills hesitated, then flashed his characteristic grin, and said quietly, that, yes, he had signed it.

City Clerk John Conrad has the signed ordinance. He said it is effective, starting Tuesday night, and would cover the sale of new or existing homes on the open market, and falls, it can subpoena witnesses, take testimony under oath, and issue binding orders.

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An open housing ordinance was formally proposed to the Mayor and Council by the Hagerstown Bi-Racial Commission, and was supported by a broad spectrum of groups, including the Washington County NAACP, and many church organizations.
Blame Homeowners Foundation

Vacant Lot More Than An Eyesore

City's Blacks Upset Over Stall In New Housing On Jonathan St.

By ARNOLD S. PLATOU

The man steps out into the sunlight. The sweat trickles down his balding head as he points to the rubble of the house where he was born.

"They ain't built nothing since I been born. . . . 'cept the projects," growls 9-year-old Sonny Campbell. "And as long as it's black, it's going to stay this way."

Campbell is a firm believer that the Washington County Homeowners Foundation, which bought and cleared the land on Jonathan Street in Hagerstown's black neighborhood a few years ago, is never going to build new homes there.

"It's because this is a black neighborhood. They don't care nothing about black areas," Campbell says. "They ain't never going to build nothing here as long as blacks are here."

The foundation has been searching for more than eight years to get federal funding for 44 townhouses and 60 apartment units on Bloom's Alley. They were on the doorstep to success earlier this year when $108,000 was almost in the mail from the Appalachian Regional Commission for pre-construction planning.

But the money was shackled in January when the Nixon administration imposed a freeze on housing monies.

Mrs. Flora Campbell, Sonny's 70-year-old mother, was forced to leave her four-room frame house three summers ago when the wreckers came.

Now living in a tiny clapboard house nearby, the white-haired grandmother says she too doesn't believe there'll ever be houses again on the vacant lots. "No, I don't. I really don't," she says.

"They were supposed to have started building again the next year . . . but they haven't. I believe it's some kind of excuse. It could be because there was no white people living up there."

Hammed by a well-worn curbstone, the empty lots glitter with bottles and cans. A tattered chair and old stove punctuate the litter. Three years ago and for a least 60 years before that, 20 families lived in the row houses that stood there.

"There was an alley down there that we used for shooting crap 'cause no cars came through there," says Campbell. His mother adds: "We lived on the end of the row and the onlyest thing I had was a little garden," says Mrs. Campbell.

But the houses were "rotten . . . no one would fix them up and the kitchen floor was caving in and the plaster was just falling off the wall," she says.

So in the mid-60s, the members of the A.M.E. Ebenezer Church decided something ought to be done. Lacking the funds, they turned to the Homeowners Foundation, which bought the land and began searching for funds to build new homes.

In 1970, the city condemned the houses and had them torn down.

Some of the residents barely got out in time, recalls Mrs. Campbell. One man "had quite a time finding a new silence of long suffering hearts; place," she says. "They were not amid joy. — Felicia Her¬
tearing one end of his building masts, English novelist.

Bible Thoughts

O Lord, why dost thou cast me off? Why dost thou hide thy face from me? Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer thy terrors; I am helpless. — Psalm 88:14, 15.

Strength is born in the deep.

THE DAILY MAIL, Hagerstown, Md. — THREE Saturday, August 18, 1973

Vacant Lot More Than An Eyesore

Blame Homeowners Foundation

City's Blacks Upset Over Stall In New Housing On Jonathan St.
Substandard Housing Linked To Crime, School Dropouts

By HARRY WARNER

Hagerstown’s substandard housing was linked with crime, school dropouts, and other local problems Wednesday, as the Hagerstown Rotary Club began a series of meetings on this topic.

A welfare authority and a minister spoke. They agreed on what happens after problem families have a chance to live in better homes: most of them improve their own lives.

"Poverty has created poverty on Jonathan St.," Mrs. Hauver, said.

Arthur Hauver, long a Washington County Welfare Department case worker, told the Rotarians at the luncheon meeting at the Venice.

"Most social problems occur among people packed together without the things needed to make their lives better," said the Rev. James Robinson, pastor of Ebernezer A.M.E. Church.

Lewis Funkhouser, who moderated the program for the Rotary Club, told members:

"Keep an open mind toward Great Society proposals."

Mrs. Hauver said of the people who live in the worst housing conditions here:

"There’s a whole difference in culture. They don’t think about the future, because it doesn’t hold anything for them.

"We’re all paying the price because they’re the ones who get into trouble."

She cited these examples to the Rotarians:

She has traced through five consecutive generations an unbroken record of illegitimate births, mother to daughter, in one substandard housing area.

A family on welfare in Washington County cannot receive more than $227 per month, no matter how many children it contains, this is not enough money to clothe properly the children in a large family, and children drop out of school for lack of suitable apparel.

"A West End girl goes to North High and carries a switchblade knife. North End children are afraid of her. Soon she’s in trouble."

Mrs. Hauver described her experiences with welfare families to back up her contention:

"With help some people will (Continued on Page 20, Col. 1)"
Hagerstown Nearer Open Housing Law

(Continued from Page 1)

ed about an hour and a half.

Fouche said that in two years since the present administration took office, "I have yet to hear a concrete statement of the Mayor's position on fair housing. I have made my position public not as a councilman but as a Christian and as a disciple of Jesus Christ. I want a statement from the Mayor if he supports this legislation and if he does not, how he expects to divide Hagerstown into first class and second class citizens."

Mayor Mills said he was willing "to go into this with the council and with our attorney to see what kind of legislation we can get."

Councilman Funkhouse added that "the Mayor doesn't vote. It is up to the council."

"These people look to the Mayor for leadership. He has a responsibility to make his position clear on perhaps the most important problem facing the United States today," Councilman Fouche said.

"I don't put anyone on the spot," Mayor Mills said. "We live in the greatest country on earth. People are lined up trying to get inside. I'll take a stand when the time comes."

After further discussion, Councilman Fouche said, "I'm in a quandry as to why the question is being evaded and what the mayor's position is. Why does he speak strongly on some subjects except when it comes to the most important problem facing the city? The Mayor does not have a vote except to break a tie. But I'm saying as chief executive he has a responsibility to make his position known of the problems and issues facing Hagerstown today."

At this point the mayor called the council into special session and called for the vote. "How much faster do you want to move than that?" he asked. "You can even go to my office and draw up the ordinance now," he said.

The meeting was opened with comments by the Rev. Mr. Robinson.

"For some time interested citizens in our community have attempted to resolve our problem in the area of housing," he said. "We have come to the conclusion that open occupancy is the only answer."

He pointed out that due to crowded conditions "of the ghetto" and the rundown condition of houses past rehabilitation "there is no longer decent housing to be found in the Jonathan St. area."

Rev. Mr. Robinson said, "This is no longer a racial issue but a human problem. You can drive up Jonathan or the side streets and see row upon row of row of houses not fit for human habitation. And I suspect the only reason they have been occupied so long is because there is no place to go."

"Now is the time for definite action," he said.

Yeatts stated that he knows of the problem of open housing because his wife is Negro. He added, "I think it is degrading that many people here will have to reveal to you their personal lives in order to convince you of the need for open housing, but he said he is willing to answer any questions if needed.

Keyes said, "I went through six months of house-hunting. I went through a lot of humiliation... I don't think anyone else should have to go through what I did... So I hope you find it in your hearts to pass this."

Mrs. Keyes said, "I have five children. I would like to be able to live in a house with a back yard." But when she looks for a house, she said, "when you say what street you live on, that does it. The house is no longer for rent. Someone else is interested in it. Mrs. Keyes. Sometimes I feel like giving up. But I'm not going to give up."

Johnson said he has four children and wants to live in a house with a basement and "other decencies and conveniences which other people have."

Mrs. Cox said she has also been house-hunting. "The last word I had," she said, "the man said he would have to see what his neighbors would have to say about renting to a Negro."
CONGRATULATES SPEAKER — Rabbi Donald N. Gluckman, Congregation B’nai Abraham, left, congratulates Clarence Mitchell, director of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP, following the latter’s speech during the group’s annual brotherhood service. About 200 people of all faiths were present to hear Mitchell speak on “Current Trends in Race Relations.”

NAACP Official Says Segregated Housing Is Smirch On Hagerstown

By DON SOBWICK

“A smear and smirch on your community,” is Clarence Mitchell’s description of Hagerstown’s Negro housing problem.

Mitchell, director of the Washington bureau of the NAACP, spoke Friday night at the annual brotherhood worship service at Congregation B’nai Abraham here.

In his only direct reference to Hagerstown civil rights problems Mitchell said, “In this community there are only a few streets where colored citizens can live. This is not an accident, it is by design.”

Mitchell’s main thesis was that, despite such things as shootings and beatings in Alabama and plots and riots in New York, in general the United States is heading toward a liberal discrimination until we have the same standards for voting as for paying taxes,” he added.

He said the fight for this legislation “would be unlike other fights” because he feels that there is a great desire on the part of many in the South to have this legislation passed.

Mitchell said that many ardent Southern segregationists learned their lesson in the past election “that hate is an upward spiraling thing and that the loudest proponents of segregation would be overturned by those ‘chiefer than the chiefer’ and ‘louder than the loudest.’”

“Watch” Government

He said one of the most important things the ordinary citizen can do is to watch the people who run city, county and state governments.

“Even the man who runs the dogcatcher should have rapport with the community,” Mitchell said.

He said, “Make sure your sheriffs are law-abiding themselves, and that your judges are just themselves.”

Mitchell’s appearance was sponsored by the Men’s Club of Congregation B’nai Abraham.

About 125 people of all faiths attended the services and the
Discrimination Charged in Local Housing, NAACP Makes

Charges of racial discrimination have brought hounds of support for a local fair housing bill from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). City Treasurer Charles B. Hyatt, speaking at a meeting of the Maryland executive committee of the NAACP, said he had been "hounded to death" by a member of the board of directors who had a good apartment to live in. He said he had met with black and white who had apartments for rent, but not for Negroes, because his firm rarely handles apartment rentals.

Mayor Winfield S. Burhans, in welcoming a state NAACP convention to Hagerstown, said he was sorry a reporter was present because he would have liked to "share a few personal thoughts with you/"

Real Estate Men Say They Rent To All

Two local real estate men said they would rent to anyone, regardless of race, but only if they "were seeking a partmcnl to live in.

Garland Grob said he did not discriminate, but they're reputable and have money and can pay the rent. Reo E. Estate said he has good apartment rentals in both the white and colored sections. Daniel IV. Litton said he or his firm will not rent to black men because his firm rarely handles apartment rentals.

No Assistant

When asked if he needed an assistant in his work in the fair housing bill, Mayor Burhans said he has had no chances to see the bill. He had left it before the time for legal procedures but he had not delayed his work in this matter. He said race made no difference in his opinion.

"You asked me a direct ques- tion," said Mayor Burhans, "and I'll answer it.

City Treasurer Charles B. Hyatt, who is also the mayor, said he was asked for a trip to meet representatives of the NAACP. He said he would support the fair housing bill. He said he would support the bill because his firm rarely handles apartment rentals. His mother is a member of the NAACP. She would support the bill because her friends support the NAACP. Her friends are all white men. They support the NAACP because they have money and can pay the rent."

Mayor Burhans said he was sorry a reporter was present because he would have liked to "share a few personal thoughts with you/"

The Mayor's Office in welcoming a state NAACP conference to Hagerstown, said he was "hounded to death" by a member of the board of directors who had a good apartment to live in.

Harold Curtiss, NAACP branch president, also encouraged the city administration of putting Negroes on committees as representatives to prevent the spread of the views of the Negroes.

Mayor Burhans said he was sorry a reporter was present because he would have liked to "share a few personal thoughts with you/"

The Rev. J. E. Washington giving the thanks of the conference."
Open Occupancy Law Would Be Legal In City

The City of Hagerstown does have authority to pass an open occupancy law, said Councilman Arthur G. Fouche, a member of the Bi-Racial Commission, on Wednesday night.

He said City Attorney Louis Bobbitt, who said the city government lacks legal authority to pass such a law, has changed his mind.

Bobbitt researched the matter further, Fouche said, and found that the state open occupancy specifically reserves to local governments the authority to pass an open occupancy law.

Other municipalities that have passed open occupancy laws, he said, and these laws are being studied.

"I cannot predict what the City Council will do," Fouche said, "This remains to be seen.

Open occupancy laws forbid discrimination in the sale of homes because of race.

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No Room For Middle-Class Negroes?

By CEI RICHARDSON

What Hagerstown needs is more middle-income housing for Negroes, Councilman Romayne Beyard told the Hagerstown Planning and Zoning Commission Thursday.

He referred to comments made at a Bi-Racial Committee meeting Wednesday when Mrs. Marguerite Dolman pointed out that there is no place in the community, for middle-income Negroes to live. She said that the overcrowding in low-cost housing would be alleviated if middle-income Negroes had some place to go.

Housing Inspector Thurston Keltner verified that some middle-income Negroes lived in low-income housing because there was no room elsewhere for them.

Commission member John Larson cited a new Housing for the Elderly project under construction on Walnut Dr. He said when it was completed there would be room in the city’s 500 low-income units for about 30 new families.

He also cited a low to middle-income project being planned by the A.M.E. Church on Jonathan St. near Bethel St. He said the project would also help the overcrowding situation in low-cost housing.

“Hopefully the private individuals in this town will come forward and put up some middle-income housing,” he said.

Members also discussed the commission’s need for two paid staff members, a planner and a secretary. Beyard said he would bring the matter before the Council at its next meeting. The commission is presently working under a $300 to $400 a year budget, Larson said.

“It will be our fourth request,” said Beyard.

The commission reviewed and approved preliminary plans for Section C of an Edison Groh subdivision between Marion St. and Armstrong Ave. Approval was given contingent on changes in the design of a cul de sac or turnaround.

The commission previously turned down plans because the diameter of the turnaround did not conform to city standards.
Inspector Says Half Of Dwellings In Downtown Section Substandard

By PHIL EBERSOLE

A group of Hagerstown businessmen and women lodged their support Monday of an effort to start a non-profit housing company after hearing a description of Hagerstown's "very, very critical" housing situation.

Housing Inspector Thurston Bonner said half the dwellings in the downtown area and many half of the retail business are vacant and are in substandard condition.

Keltner described a housing situation for the benefit of a group of people he had gathered when he asked if anyone had any questions about the non-profit housing corporation.

This group included Fred Wright, who is a member of the Hagerstown Housing Authority and Interim Director of the Housing Authority, and Rev. ACTS, an interdenominational Christian church group; the Rev. F. Norman Unger, of St. Paul's United Church; Leonard Curll, of the NAACP; Roy I. Berge, of the Council on Aging and an Ahmed project in Beasceck.

Max Fiery and (although not present) Helen Kretzer, newcomers to the group attending Monday included Chaun Buehman, president of the Hagerstown Manufacturers Bank; Jack Stoech, president of the Hagerstown Chamber of Commerce; Charles D. Lyon, Herman Hoopes and John McCardell.

Wright said he hopes to have within a week a report from John Martin, of Urban America, Inc., which will provide a blueprint for setting up a nonprofit housing corporation in Hagerstown, a model which could serve as a pilot model for similar corporations in other communities utilizing $3,000 in population.

Housing Situation

Keltner said an estimated 12,000 dwellings of Hagerstown live in substandard housing. About 60 percent of the retail commercial buildings are in substandard condition, he said.

He said that he and Housing Inspector Walter Joseph Nye have conducted a survey of the eight selected areas. These revealed 2,284 deteriorated dwellings, which repre- sent 30 percent of the 7,568 dwellings which house 63,500 people.

In the central business area taking in everything within two blocks of the square, there are 2,311 people, housing 1,217 of whom 76 percent, Keltner said. About 50 percent of those dwellings are substandard, he stated.

The nonprofit corporation has been put out of business by the Maryland Health Department in 1967, a state plan by plan of the construction of 3,000 units, in 1967, and a survey by the Health and Welfare Committee of the Baltimore City, he said.

"At least they have a roof, a partial roof, over their heads in the downtown area," he said. "And rats and they may not have a roof over their heads. At least they have a roof over the heads."

If the housing codes are ful- filled by any company, the people could be turned out of the city, they have no provision for a substitute. Keltner agreed, and added that 100 structures could be torn down to make a "place to move the tenants."

A.M.E. Church

Carlin said the A.M.E. Church is open to the idea of Bishop Baber will no longer be a key factor in the financial statement. On the other hand, there is a difference between the Bishop and the local church in its plans for the construction of the housing project, which might become an echo of the decision. The local church has a source of the difficulty, he said, which might be a disagreement with the Bishop and the local congregation over whether the A.M.E. Church is the one that should take over the project. He said the project may be named after an individual, and it will not be the first time something in Hagerstown has been named after an individual who has been the first to get the job.

The AME Church housing project has been on again-and-off again-and-on again. At one time a ground-breaking was scheduled for October, but the federal government was unable to obtain the land for the Church. As a result, the AME Church has come under the financial and Program Workable

In order to get federal recognition for the AME Church housing project and for any other Hagerstown housing project, one of the requirements is the city's housing project is to be named, and it will not be the first time something in Hagerstown has been named after an individual who has been the first to get the job.

If the project is named after an individual, the project may be the first time something in Hagerstown has been named after an individual who has been the first to get the job. The AME Church housing project has been on again-and-off again-and-on again. At one time a ground-breaking was scheduled for October, but the federal government was unable to obtain the land for the Church. As a result, the AME Church has come under the financial and Program Workable

Police Chief

Wright said that the D.C. Police have completed all the requirements for a workable police force.
Housing Code Enforcement Seen Needed

Continued From Page 1...

One woman moved to Hagers-town with her eight children, after living in West Virginia with a common-law husband who sent her $80 monthly until he became ill. When she was found guilty of neglect of her children in juvenile court, the Welfare Department began to help.

"Within spitting distance of the jail," a case worker found the family using a garbage can for a toilet, the children's clothing in boxes in the cellar stairway for lack of closets, and inadequate furnishings in the house.

Since then, the man has returned to the family, they have moved to a better house, and they're taking a half-dozen baths a day because they have the use of a bathtub for the first time.

Another family was found living miles from a road in a forest in a filthy and dilapidated farmhouse, lacking even enough chairs for all members to be seated simultaneously. With welfare assistance, this family has moved into an adequate house and the mother who ignored fundamental rules of sanitation in the farmhouse has turned out to be a good housekeeper in better surroundings.

Mrs. Hauver reminded Rotarians that some landlords have problems, too. The maximum welfare allowance for rent is still for a family that gets no utilities as part of the rent. "How many landlords can rent for this?" she asked. "Where would landlords get money to make repairs?"

Rev. Mr. Robinson pointed to Hagerstown's successful public housing projects as proof that people who had been living in substandard conditions will change for the better, when given a decent environment.

"The greatest contributory agent to rid Hagerstown of large slum areas would be proper enforcement of a housing code with obligations for both landlords and tenants," he said. The minister told the Rotary Club, a tenant will maintain the place he rents at the level of standards imposed by the landlord. The tenant should expect good stewardship from the tenant, he said.

"If it is depressing for us to look at Hagerstown's substandard housing," the Rev. Mr. Robinson continued, "think of the discomfort and loss of pride it causes to the tenants.

"These are not homes but simply shelters. The shelter does not end up with the quality of human dignity that a home provides."

Recently, he said, a few members of the Negro community here have succeeded in renting better quality homes. But he warned that Hagerstown has been losing over the years some of its most capable Negroes, Negroes because they move away to seek better housing conditions.

"Could you expect a Negro newly graduated from college to come back to one of Hagerstown's alleys?"

The minister called for accepting Hagerstown's housing problem as a challenge that could be met by providing wholesome situations where the dignity of man might be perpetuated.

In the next two weeks, the Rotarians will hear about housing from two more viewpoints: those of the landlord and Hagerstown officials.
Wright Says Housing Law 'Fraud Upon The Negro'

Del. Fred Wright III listed Code Home Rule, air pollution controls, consumer protection and tax reform among the major accomplishments of the 1967 General Assembly.

But he attacked the open housing law as "a complete fraud upon the Negro." As a lawyer, he said, he could not vote for a law with so many "loopholes and exceptions."

"Any developer who wants to discriminate, if he has a good lawyer, can do so," Wright said.

Generally, he said, "I feel that the session was especially productive from what I understand of past legislatures under non-apportionment. This is what I get from Speaker of the House Marvin Mandel and House Majority Leader Thomas Hunter Lowe. They said the fellows this year seemed more interested in legislating than in making emotional appeals on the floor."

Wright listed the following as accomplishments of the legislature:

1. Tax reform. "I voted for it somewhat reluctantly," he said, "It’s always difficult to vote for a tax increase. But I felt a graduated tax would mean the general burden of the government would be borne more equitably.” States must levy their own taxes, he said, or depend on the federal government for financing. He also said the state employees needed a pay raise, so "you must vote for the revenue means to pay for it."

2. Consumer protection. Wright said a consumer protection division in the state attorney-general’s office will give interest legislation.

However, Wright said the General Assembly was right to refuse a bill to liberalize the state abortion laws. "I don’t feel that psychiatry has reached the stage," he said, "where abortion can be permitted just because the psychiatrist says the mother’s mental health will be impaired."

Among the goals for future sessions, Wright said, are:

1. A legislative auditor. He said the General Assembly needs to have accountants, hired by the legislature and not the governor, who can professionally review the state budget. He also said State Senator George E. Snyder’s budget review committee is a "darn good idea" along these lines.

2. Uniform teacher’s salaries on a statewide level. He said this will prevent competition and raiding among the counties to attract teachers.

All local House of Delegate bills sponsored by the Washington County delegation, includin the school bond authorization and tax relief to the farmer were enacted, Del. Wright noted.

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Three Walnut Lane Properties
Condemned Under Housing Code

By PHIL EBERSOLE

Three properties on Walnut Lane, a few hundred yards from the rear of St. John's Episcopal Church, have been condemned under the Housing Code.

Gerald Shank, city building, housing and zoning inspector, posted the buildings as "unfit for human habitation" on Thursday, one day after making a speech to the Hagerstown Rotary Club on housing problems.

The tenants and property-owners have 30 days to vacate the building unless improvements are made.

Shank said the main defects are lack of central heating, poor wiring, a poor state of repair and lack of bath facilities.

The owner, Dr. John C. Stauf er, said his next step will be to find out exactly what the code requirements are. He said Shank had written a letter outlining "things which he thought would be desirable," but this is not the same thing as the requirements of a code, "judging by (other) properties I see in Hagerstown."

Future Offices

Dr. Stauf er said he acquired properties as a site for a possible future office building, and the rental in the meantime has been incidental. The Patterson Agency, Inc., has made all arrangements. "I've never seen in the buildings," he said.

We're going to tear the buildings down sometime when we build an office building, so there was no desire on our part to make unnecessary improvements," he said, also commenting, "I don't have any definite plans right now."

A woman tenant says she does not know what will happen if she is forced to vacate. "I don't know," she said, "With five kids, it's hardly to get a one."

The woman, who asked that her name not be used because she did not want a certain person to find out where she lived, said, "I tried before to get a place. I have too many children. That's what they say."

She gets about $200 a month under the Welfare Department's aid to dependent children program. This includes $31 a month in rent.

$45 A Month

Her rent on Walnut Lane is $45 a month, she said. She furnishes her own heat, gas and electricity, she said, but the landlord furnishes water. There is, however, no hot water, she said.

Each of the units is alike, she said, and each has six windows, three upstair and three downstairs. One is inhabited by a family of five, she said, and another by a family of three.

These Properties Are Condemmed

Shown above are properties at 148-150-152, under the City Housing Code. Walnut Lane condemned by City Building Inspector Gerald Shank.

SHOWN ABOVE ARE PROPERTIES AT 148-150-152, UNDER THE CITY HOUSING CODE.
Hagerstown Has 1,900
In Low-Rent Housing

Hagerstown has 1,900 people — nearly one out of every 20 in the city — living in low-rent public housing projects, according to the annual report of the Hagerstown Housing Authority.

The housing authority rents to 555 families, which include about 900 adults and 1,000 children.

Its projects are: Westview, 250 units, and Parkside, 40 units, built in 1952; Frederick Manor, 125 units, and Douglass Court, 30 units, built in 1958; and Walnut Towers, a 150-unit high-rise for the elderly, built in 1968.

Average rent paid by tenants is $52 a month, and 106 families pay the lowest rent, which is $27 a month. To operate without a federal subsidy, the Hagerstown Housing Authority figures it would have to charge $84 a month.

All 555 dwellings were occupied in 1968. A small waiting list has been maintained for families with children.

“The demand for one-bedroom units for elderly has been great at all times,” the authority reported, “with some people waiting for months or even years.”

In April, 1968, the authority made a program reservation for 250 new public housing units. The authority expects to get money for these now that Hagerstown has a certified workable program.

Ultimately, the Hagerstown Housing Authority plans to have 1,255 public housing units, including another high-rise of 150 units for the elderly and 550 new units for families. “This program will take from two to eight years providing the proper sites can be purchased,” the authority said, “All new programs will be under the ‘turnkey’ method.”

The report said tenants are held responsible for maintenance of the interior of their homes, and are charged for breakage. “Routine inspection of the homes are made to correct abuse,” he said, “and to take care of necessary maintenance.”

Parkside and Westview Homes paid $6,119 to the county government and $4,230 to the city government in lieu of taxes. Frederick Manor andDouglass Court Homes paid $4,004 to the county government and $2,767 to the city government in lieu of taxes.
By PHIL EBERSOLE

"It is as if human beings dilapidate along with the tenements in which they live."

In these words, Mrs. Arthur Hauver, acting supervisor of the Washington County Welfare Board, pleaded Wednesday for sympathy for Hagerstown's slum dwellers. She and the Rev. James Robinson, pastor of Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, were featured speakers before the Hagerstown Rotary Club.

They were invited to present the tenant's point of view on housing problems. Next week Vincent Groh, of the Groh Realty Company, and Fred Wright Jr., of the Hagerstown Housing Authority, are scheduled to present the landlord's point of view, and on Jan. 18, speakers from the city government will present the city's point of view.

Not Enough

Many people in Washington County, Mrs. Hauver said, simply lack enough money to afford decent housing. Public assistance, she said, is "not enough to support a minimum standard of subsistence," and, she added, there are many people not receiving welfare aid who are just as badly off as those who are.

The Welfare Department's allowance for rent is, by law, $31 a month, she said. This is in addition to $50 a month for subsistence. There are 52 Washington County welfare cases involving children, she said; of these, the average grant per family is $18 a month and the maximum grant is, by law, $227 a month.

"How do you get the kids the clothes they need?" she asked. "How do you get them off to school? How do you buy them gym uniforms? You don't. And they die."

Mrs. Hauver told of one woman, the mother of eight children, who lived on $80 a month, support from her common-law husband in West Virginia. But the man lost his job, she said, and then the woman.

The woman was unable to buy shoes for her children, and stopped sending them to school, she said. For keeping her children out of school, Mrs. Hauver said, the landlord threatened her with eviction. "My. child, said the landlord, 'is the property of the state."

The household was dilapidated; the inside of the house was dirty, and the outside was littered. Boys and girls slept in the same bed, she said. The children's clothes were stored, for want of any place better, in boxes on the cedar steps.

"A garbage can was used for toilet purposes," Mrs. Hauver said, "and I judge this was the cause of the stench."

Since then, Mrs. Hauver said, the woman has married her common-law husband and they have had two more children. But they have been able to move into a six-room house with a bathtub, she said.

"I think they must take a bath six times a day," Mrs. Hauver said, "They think this is the most wonderful thing in the world."

She told of visiting another family which she found all standing staring blankly at a television set, in a living room in which the set was the only furniture. It was obvious, she said, that the house had not been cleaned in a long time. Since then the family has had many troubles, Mrs. Hauver said, including infection of the oldest girl with tuberculosis. But the family has shown "improved improvement," she said.

The family now lives in a "fairly adequate" five-room house, and the current Welfare Department report says: "The home is in a good state of repair, and Mrs. R. is a good housekeeper."

Home is where children learn to be adults, Mrs. Hauver said, and what do children learn from the slums of Hagerstown? "They need food," she said, "They need something now, and they grab it, but they don't plan for the future, because the future holds nothing for them."

Mutual Responsibility

Rev. Mr. Robinson said tenants expect landlords to provide plumbing (including toilets), heating and some basic decoration. He said landlords expect tenants to provide "good stewardship" of the property and a financial return.

He said most tenants are willing to maintain properties at the general level imposed by the landlord, whether this is low or high. He noted the high standards maintained in public housing projects, in which most tenants move from sub-standard homes.

At the present time, he said, jobs are readily available, yet Negro wage-earner often finds that only sub-standard houses are available for him to rent.

He said the Hagerstown Negro community "until recently" has lost its most promising youth because they have been "unwilling to live in these houses available to them here."

What is needed is strict enforcement of housing codes, he said, on both landlords and tenants.

Lewis Funkhouser, who introduced Mrs. Hauver and Rev. Mr. Robinson, spoke of the need for better understanding of the problems of the poor by the middle class. He said the middle class should show sympathy, not self-righteousness.

"If we fail in this, if we don't understand, we fail because of a passionate commitment to this cause, not because of indifference or lethargy," he said.

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Day Care Center May Open

It Good Site Can Be Found

Washington County can get a day care center for 75 preschool children if the Community Action Council can come up with a site, the names of the children, and a workable plan by Jan. 15, according to Ralph Swauger, executive director of the Community Action Council. Right now it has none of these.

The plan is no problem, Swauger said, and he feels pretty confident of being able to find the children. The problem, he said, is the site.

He would like to get the North St. YMCA corner into a day care center, but he said, "Quite frankly," he added, "I'd like to see our office up there."

Swauger figures on being able to get the day care center in operation by Feb. 15. Without a day care center would not be a mere "baby-sitting" establishment, but would exceed, Tuesday night at the monthly meeting of the Washington County NAACP branch, Leonard Curlin, president, expressed doubts about the North St. YMCA as a site.

"It's not going to be a Negro day care center. It's going to be a community day care center," Curlin said. "Since I want it for all people, would the other people be willing to send their children out here?"

Other possibilities which were discussed were the Potomac S&L YMCA, one of the city's largest churches, a vacant mansion on the North End or a vacant store downtown. Members were delegated to explore some of these possibilities.

However, Curlin said, if none of these work out, there is nothing wrong in principle having the day care center the North St. YMCA building. Meanwhile the Community...
Hagerstown Bi-Racial Commission Says Broader Coverage Needed

By PHIL EBERSOLE

Hagerstown needs its own open housing law regardless of the state open housing law, members of the Hagerstown Bi-Racial Commission told City Councilmen on Monday night.

They said the proposed local open housing law has broader coverage than the state law, which is limited to buildings constructed after June 1, 1967...

They also said that it is better to have local enforcement with local people than to bring outside officials on a state commission.

Members of the Bi-Racial Commission acknowledged that there are arguments on both sides as to whether Hagerstown is the power to enact an open housing ordinance. But the only way to really find out, they said, is to enact it, and let the ordinance be tested in the courts.

City Councilmen informally agreed to a suggestion by the Bi-Racial Commission that the man relations commission carrying out the open housing law be “of bi-racial composition.”

The Bi-Racial Commission, in turn, agreed with City Councilmen that all complaints made under the open housing law be made in writing and under oath. The Bi-Racial Commission said man relations commission members should be required only to be residents of Hagerstown.

Taking part in the meeting on Monday night were Dr. William M. Florig, Leonard Curlin, Mrs. Margaret Dolman, John L. Rubbery, Herman Hoopes, and Rev. James H. Robinson, representing the Bi-Racial Commission, and Councilmen Paul Huber, Ralph L. Funkhouser and Romayne Beyard.

Having completed conferences with the Hagerstown Board of Editors last week and with the Bi-Racial Commission Monday night, the Mayor and Council are ready for open hearings on the proposed open housing ordinance on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m., and for possible action on the ordinance at the regular Mayor and Council meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

Attorney General
City Clerk John Conrad several weeks ago telephoned the State Attorney General’s office, and was told that nothing in the state law prevents the city from enacting an open housing law stronger than the state’s, provided the city charter gives it the power to do so.

City Attorney Louis Boublitz was directed by the Mayor and Council to get an opinion in writing. He was sent a letter on Feb. 6 which said, “We do not give legal opinions to municipal corporations. As a courtesy, however, we would be willing to review and give our thoughts on any opinion on this question you might prepare for the Hagerstown Mayor and Council.”

Presently Boublitz is in Florida recovering from an illness. He is due back Feb. 19.

Open Housing
An open housing law forbids racial discrimination in the sale or rent of apartments or homes on the open market.

The proposed Hagerstown open housing law, which closely resembles a Montgomery County open housing law, exempts apartment houses occupied by the owner and containing less than five dwelling units as well as rooming houses.

The Maryland open housing law exempts (1) homes built after June 1, 1967, (2) owner-occupied less than five houses or apartments containing less than 12 dwelling units, (3) co-operators and condominiums and (4) owner-occupied apartment containing less than 12 dwelling units.

In addition, both the Maryland law and the proposed Hagerstown law allow housing provided by religions or fraternities to be limited to members.

The proposed Hagerstown housing law provides for a five-man human relations commission. When it gets a complaint the ordinance directs it to “attempt to conciliate the matter by means of informal conferences.”

If this fails, the ordinance says the commission may summon witnesses, take testimony under oath, and render a decision in writing which is binding on all parties. This decision may be appealed to the court by either side.

The human relations commission has no enforcement powers under the proposed ordinance. When enforcement is needed the human relations commission asks the city attorney to take court action.

State Law

The state law is carried out by the State Commission on Interracial Problems and Relations, 301 W. Preston St., Baltimore, 383-3010.
City Housing Needed For

Hagerstown’s two housing inspectors are operating under standard Housing Code regulations established by the Building Office of the City of Hagerstown, which was adopted on Nov. 12, 1964.

The two new housing inspectors, Thurston Keltner and Gerry Nye, were hired for the specific purpose of starting an extensive housing inspection program to enforce this code. The City of Hagerstown has hired a Housing Code and its powers of subpoena are now pending before the City Council. The only mission which the Bi-Racial Commission now has is to make the Bi-Racial Commission an official city organization and to give it a Housing Code and its powers of subpoena to make it work if it is to be sustained before the City Council.

Copies of the 20-page under city ordinance is to act as an enforcement agency for the city’s ordinance regulating the rental of housing. Legal action to enforce this code is to condemn complaints are outlined in some detail.

However, the Bi-Racial Commission, the safety, health mission, whose existence pre-

About 27 people have the ability to influence in an unforeseen way the occupant or the open housing ordinance because it lacks an enforcement mechanism, vermin-infested, and other to alleviate racial discrimination in sale or rental of housing. Legal action to enforce the code is to condemn complaints are outlined in some detail.

The safety, health mission, whose existence pre-

The Bi-Racial Commission wants a legal definition of its powers and responsibilities. We’re busy people,” said Herman B. Hoopes, a component of the commission.

James Resh, director of the Hagerstown Rescue Mission, was fined $100 and costs for driving while his ability was impaired by alcohol and under the influence. He was found guilty of doing 44 m.p.h. in a 30 m.p.h. zone on a date. He disposed of a dwelling the occupant of the dwelling was found guilty of doing 44 m.p.h. in a 30 m.p.h. zone on a date. He disposed of a dwelling that paid the occupant a premium clean and safe.

An active Bi-Racial Committee are Leonard N. Curlin, Mrs. Marguerite Doleman, Arthur G. Fouche and the Rev. Wilbur Hogenov.

Magistrate Considers Citizenship

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Open Housing Reality For One; But Still A Dream For Another

By PHIL EBERSOLE

Vernon Johnson, of 1700 Edgewood Road, said, "open house" is a reality. Clifford Edwards, of 462 Cranford Ave., is still only a dream.

Both are Negroes. Johnson, has been saving all his for his own home, found dream house two years ago on Broadfigh Road and lived there happily ever after.

Edwards is one of five Negroes now living in public houses whose income has exceeded maximum limits set by the Hagerstown Housing Authority, who has been unable to find on-site housing for people that can afford. Unable to stay where he was, he is not to do next.

"If a Negro wants to buy this house, we sacrificial," Johnson said. "I didn't have a church wanted to buy something we could bring up our street and live the rest of our lives in."

Johnson was born in Washington, D.C. His wife and his fathers were originally from Washington County. He spent his life to live in Washington County while he served in the U.S. Army during World War Two.

He liked to settle down where, "You couldn't find any better location than this valley, he said, "and the people are pretty nice, as far as I'm concerned."

Johnson, now manager of the North St. YMCA, has worked for the Negro YMCA branch since its founding, first under Eugene Mitchell and then under Horace Hutt. He is the manager for seven years. He has simultaneously held other jobs, the latest being on the night shift at Western Maryland State Hospital.

"I had been looking for a couple of years for something I really liked," Johnson said. He said he found no problem in getting realtors to show him suitable properties, but that was determined to wait until he found a home that suited him exactly.

He found such a home two years ago on Broadfigh Road — a four-bedroom house costing $13,000. He has five children and a grandchild (he has a son in the U.S. Army) moved in.

At first his wife and children were apprehensive about moving away from Jonathan St., but said now they couldn't be torn away from their new home.

"How would you like to have a million dollars? That is how I feel about this house," Johnson said. "It is a dream location. It is quiet. It is neighbors. I recommend that kind of a neighborhood to anybody."

He said, "You couldn't ask for better neighbors." When he was planting shrubbery and grass, neighbors came to offer help.

They telephoned his wife when they moved in and told her how pleased they were to have them as neighbors.

Johnson said he encountered none of the antagonism or panic that Negroes supposedly run into when they move into a previously all-white neighborhood.

Johnson said he does not care whether he lives among colored people or white people, as long as they are people who are decent and clean and respectable. He has brought our children up to respect other's property and other people."

Edwards was born in Berryville, Va., and, when his father died, was raised by his older brother in Easton, Pa. He moved to Hagerstown as a youth, and worked for the Foundant Head Country Club for 19 years.

When the country club burned down, he went to work for Mack Trucks, Inc. He is a gear cutter. About the same time, his father went to work downtown. These two things put the family income above the maximum set for the Hagerstown Housing Authority.

They have no car, and need a home within walking distance of downtown Hagerstown. Mrs. Edwards would also like to be able to visit her 68-year-old mother, who lives around the corner. This limits their choice. They have not been able to consider offers of homes on Keedysville and on Outer Drive.

They were offered a three-floor apartment on North Ave., but turned it down because they could not afford to remodel. They were offered a home on Ruby Ave. that, according to Edwards, "doesn't even have a downstairs. It has a garage under it."

They were offered one of three homes for sale on North St. All have outside toilets, said Edwards, "We're not going back to that," said Mrs. Edwards, "when we can afford to live better."

Said Edwards: "I think the housing situation in Hagerstown has declined since I've been here. I know of about three houses built in the colored section in the last 30 years."

The reason, he said, is there is no room left to build. A person must either tear down and replace a burned-out or dilapidated home, or wait for a

They don't criticize the Hagerstown Housing Authority. "It's not their fault," said Mrs. Edwards, "They need this house for someone with a low income."

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Neither is a member of the NAACP or any other civil rights group.

"I'm not interested in socializing or busting blocks or anything like that," said Mrs. Edwards, "All my friends are around here (in the Jonathan St. section). I just need a place to move."

Mr. and Mrs. Edwards seemed a little baffled at just how to overcome their problem or even who to blame.

"I don't fault anybody but the real estate people," Mrs. Edwards said, "I think there are plenty of white people who wouldn't mind selling to colored. I think the real estate people are against it."

But her husband felt that the real estate people were only acting as agents of the people they represent, although, he said, a South End property owner who has offered to sell him a partially-completed house showed him a letter from a real estate man refusing to handle the transaction.

Right now Edwards is dickering with a real estate man for a house in the colored section owned by an Army captain in California. It is assessed by a bank at $5,000, and Edwards figures it will take $3,000 worth of remodeling to be fit to live in. He was offered the property for $5,700 and has been able to bargain this figure down to $6,750.

He talks knowledgeably about building construction and property values, and apparently is a conservative investor. He says he has enough money for a down payment, and is looking for a house in the $9,000 to $10,000 price range.

Or $12,000, his wife said, 'I'd go back to work.'"
Nixon Housing Freeze May Delay Jonathan Street Housing Project

By ARNOLD PLATOU

A low and moderate income housing project in the Jonathan St. area of Hagerstown that has been in the works for the last eight years may be delayed another year and a half because of a freeze President Nixon put on federal housing funds this week.

But a consultant to the Homeowners Foundation in Hagerstown said the freeze affect the Jonathan St. project, "We'll fight it like hell."

Jim Ginsburg, of Bryant Associates of Philadelphia, consultants to the Homeowners Foundation, said the foundation has already been granted "front or seed money" from the Appalachian Regional Commission for land and architectural study costs.

But that money was held up this week by the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) office when the freeze was announced.

The freeze applies immediately and places a temporary hold on all applications for subsidized housing assistance that haven't reached the "feasibility approval stage." It also blocks monies to new water and sewer, open space and public facility bank grants.

Allen G. Clapp, Baltimore area HUD director, confirmed Wednesday the front money for the Jonathan St. project is being held back. He said he is awaiting word from his superiors on what steps to take next.

"If we do get them," he said, "we still wouldn't be able to do anything new. And years ago. And, he said, local organizers had a meeting with HUD officials in Baltimore December 18.

The front money was to have been released and then the local organizers were to have placed their final plans before HUD. "We are ready to do that right away," Ginsburg said.

The consultant said the plans call for low and moderate income housing for 100 families. He said the majority of the land to be used is at present under the control of the Homeowners Foundation and the Bethel Corporation.

Ginsburg said it would be "absolutely impossible" to say how long it might have taken HUD to have given final approval to the project plans, he added.

What will happen now is "indeterminate," the consultant said, "But I do not believe the freeze will continue. Sure, there will be some cutbacks but not over all programs."

City Housing Authority Doubtful About Request For 350 More Units

By EUGENE ZITVER

Hagerstown Housing Authority (HHA) Executive Director Norman L. Foltz said Thursday the recent freeze by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on funds for new housing could delay the construction of up to 350 housing units in the city.

At the housing authority's monthly meeting, Foltz reported he has written to HUD for forms to apply for the new housing, but has not received them.

"If we do get them," he said, "we still wouldn't be able to do anything new. And for children and youth living in the city's housing projects.

Under the program, a YMCA worker will devote half his working hours to programs involving children and youth in the projects. The young people also will be allowed to use YMCA facilities downtown free of charge.

Paul M. Eberhart, assistant director of the HHA, said he hoped the program would help curb the growing vandalism problem caused by young people in the projects.

Garbage Collection

Foltz said the housing authority has not yet reached an agreement on receiving money from the city government for garbage collection by a private company.

He explained the city garbage collectors only collect from the streets and will not go into the parking lots to collect. Some Noland residents have to carry their garbage up to 400 feet to the street.

"My personal opinion is there will be a big fight over it. They can get 8 million to buy planes and go over and shoot up little yellow people. . . . Basically," he admitted, "housing has been a problem but it has generally done more positive things than negative.

"Many people have been dependent upon them," he said.

Without the HUD funds, Ginsburg added, "We'd be in limbo unless we could find some other funding tool."
By PHIL EBERSOLE

The City of Hagerstown will ask Attorney - General Francis B. Burch if it legally empowered to pass an open housing law, the Mayor and Council said at the Bi-Racial Commission at an informal meeting Wednesday night.

Councilman Romayne Beyard added, "I would have no compunction about putting this on the floor next Tuesday night (after Mayor and Council meeting) . . . if the Attorney - General says it's legal."

Councilman Ralph L. Funkhouser said, "If it's legal, we'll put it on the floor. If not you can bet there'll be a referendum."

"If I'm on the floor, said Leonard W. Curlin, NAACP branch president and a member of the Bi-Racial Commission. He noted that the proposal has been pending since last May.

The Bi - Racial Commission - represented by Curlin, Dr. William Brish, John J. Porter, the Rev. James M. Robinson, and Mrs. Marguerite Dolman - met informally at City Hall with Councilmen Beyard, Funkhouser, Dr. Arthur G. Fouche and William E. Harne. The four Councilmen pointed out that City Attorney Louis Dobbins, who was absent due to illness, has raised doubts about the legality of an open housing ordinance, in view of changes in the ordinance in Montgomery County and on a statewide level. Dr. Brish then suggested they go directly to the Maryland Attorney - General.

Councilmen examined a petition urging passage of the ordinance signed by 222 members of St. Paul's Methodist Church and a letter urging passage from the executive committee of the Washington County Teacher's Association.

Dr. Brish said the housing problem for poor Negroes is even worse than that for poor whites. He said they have been crowded into a smaller area and have less choice.

He said a number of Washington County industries want to hire well - educated Negroes in higher positions, not only to prove non - discrimination to get government contracts, but to get able people from every source. But the industries can't get them, he said, "because we can't find a place for them to live."

He said she has been interested in better housing for Negroes, "We have called realtors numerous times," she said. "When they find out you are Negro, they have all sorts of reasons why they can't sell to you."

Curlin and Dr. Brish warned of the rising impatience of the Negro community. Harne and Beyard said the problem is to satisfy the legitimate demand of the Negroes without arousing bitterness among the whites.

But they pointed out that a few Negroes have moved to such places as Outer Drive and Belview Ave., and that this is a way for the community, with no disruption or abrupt drop in property values.

The Council had earlier expressed doubts about the legality of an open housing law, since state law giving municipalities under home rule the authority to pass open housing laws has been sent to the Maryland Court of Appeals.

In question also is the validity of signatures petitioning a state wide open housing law to referendum.

Further complicating the issue is the fact that Montgomery County's open housing law was recently declared invalid by Circuit Judge Kathryn Shoo. The said the County Council had exceeded its authority, and simply passed a law in ordinance form. Shoo said the law should have been in the form of a local public law that would be subject to referendum.

The City Attorney told the Council in September that Hagerstown has the legal authority to pass such legislation. Hagerstown has both home rule and the machinery for referendum.

Dr. Brish, who is also superintendent of schools for Washington County, said the bi-racial agencies tell him that whether or not the law is upheld, there's nothing to prevent us from passing our own open housing law."

The screening of a movie on the C & O Canal - filmed half a century ago when the canal was in its heyday - will be one of the highlights of the annual membership dinner meeting of the Washington County Historical Society this month.

W. Dean McClanahan, who is superintendent of the C & O Canal Monument and the National Park Service, will be the guest speaker for the annual meeting. His talk on the C & O Canal as part of our nation's historical legacy will be augmented by the ten-minute-long movie.

The Historical Society's dinner meeting will be held in the auditorium of the First Christian Church at 6:30 p.m., Thurs., Jan. 25. Reservations must be received by Mon., Jan. 22, by telephoning Mrs. Robert Clark, RC 9-4690, or writing to her at 1018 Terrace.

Annual dues will be payable at the meeting. Prospective members are invited to make reservations to attend on a first-come basis.

In his talk, Superintendent McClanahan is expected to bring history - minded local residents up to date on the progress of restoration work on the stone structures of the C & O Canal. The future of the "magnificent ditch" as an historic shrine and possibly someday as a national park - also is expected to be touched upon.

Dog Pack Creates Hazard

In South High Section

A pack of seven or eight mongrel dogs roaming about the South High area on the Downsville Pike is causing a bit of flurry at the sheriff's department.

Deputies Donald Custer and Alonzo Hoffman and Constable Guy Faith of the SPCA chased the dogs this morning. They caught a female dog which was leading the pack, Deputy Hoffman said.

The dogs reportedly have no identification tags.

The pack is creating a traffic hazard, the deputies reported. A health hazard may be a possibility, they said.

They said she has been interested in better housing for Negroes, "We have called realtors numerous times," she said. "When they find out you are Negro, they have all sorts of reasons why they can't sell to you."

Curlin and Dr. Brish warned of the rising impatience of the Negro community. Harne and Beyard said the problem is to satisfy the legitimate demand of the Negroes without arousing bitterness among the whites.

Dr. Brish pointed out that a few Negroes have moved to such places as Outer Drive and Belview Ave., and that this is a way for the community, with no disruption or abrupt drop in property values.

The Council had earlier expressed doubts about the legality of an open housing law, since state law giving municipalities under home rule the authority to pass open housing laws has been sent to the Maryland Court of Appeals.

In question also is the validity of signatures petitioning a state wide open housing law to referendum.

Further complicating the issue is the fact that Montgomery County's open housing law was recently declared invalid by Circuit Judge Kathryn Shoo. The said the County Council had exceeded its authority, and simply passed a law in ordinance form. Shoo said the law should have been in the form of a local public law that would be subject to referendum.

The City Attorney told the Council in September that Hagerstown has the legal authority to pass such legislation. Hagerstown has both home rule and the machinery for referendum.

Dr. Brish, who is also superintendent of schools for Washington County, said the bi-racial agencies tell him that whether or not the law is upheld, there's nothing to prevent us from passing our own open housing law."

"A tranquilizer gun would be an effective measure in curing dog problems," Hoffman commented. He noted that the SPCA department was helping in the investigation.