

Housing Crisis

By FATHER JOHN J. HEMPEL

"It is time now to end the destruction and violence not only in the streets of the ghetto but in the lives of people."

These words can be found in conclusion of the Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, written in 1968. This statement can never become a reality until we have honestly and sincerely stopped planting the seeds of violence.

One of the seeds is planted every time we put up barriers to open housing and to low-to-moderate-income housing. We are told that monies are available for housing yet the opposition from people, the incredible amount of red tape and bureaucracy discourage those who sincerely want to do the right thing.

In a small city within our Diocese there is controversy over the choice between scattered public housing and clustered "ghetto" housing. The local government maintains that the cost of scattered housing is impractical.

Yet no ceiling appears to be placed upon monies expended for industrial and commercial complexes, the amount expended on munitions, and the endless effort to cater to every whim of a society becoming luxury oriented.

The federal government has spoken out against busing for integrating education, yet speaks of the necessity of integrating education.

How is this possible without scattered housing? Can't we invest in people for a change? Can't we do something noble for a change?

We spoke out for the school Reorganization and Desegregation Plan for the city of Rochester. Constantly the argument against the plan seemed to center on busing—the opposition spoke out loud and clear for education based on the neighborhood concept.

In the northwest sector of Rochester a housing development is now being opposed and the opposition centers around "those people" being a part of that community. Every effort to unify our society seems to end in frustration.

In one of our rural counties we have been struggling unsuccessfully to provide housing for 20 families living in the most horrible and degrading circumstances. Time and time again when it is discovered what the land is to be used for every means of evasion was produced to obstruct the development.

After all the arguments about water, sewage, traffic patterns, over-crowding of schools, etc., etc., the final conclusion is a refusal to meet the challenge of making it possible for every man in this country regardless of his color to become a part of a white-oriented society.

Many years ago God-man outlined on the Mount what was needed for happiness. To ignore this outline is to build a society based on violent confrontation and constant turmoil. It would seem that we lack the will to solve our problems—the solution lies within us.

Greece Pastors Push Housing

Pentecost Sunday, all the pastors in Greece, the Greece Pastors' Association, urged their congregations to display in their front windows an "open housing" symbol.

The association described the symbol as an affirmation the home owner will not discriminate against prospective home seekers because of color, creed or national origin.

"It is a sign of welcome and true neighborliness," the association said.

A spokesman for the organization said "As professionals who share leadership responsibility in Christian congregations and in the larger community we urge action upon open housing in Greece.

"We want to support and broaden actions already taken by some congregations to free ourselves and our community from those strictures that divide human beings and prevent healing."



Stella Maris Counselors

Counselors for 1970 at Camp Stella Maris, all from St. Bernard's Seminary, will be John Turner; Dan Chapin; Bill Leone, athletic director; Mike Mahler, boys' director; Terry Fisher, waterfront director; Dan Casey; Bill Darling, assistant director; Bob Weiss craft director. Not shown are Tom Capriotti, Dick Weider, Fritz Kleman, Paul Copley, Jerry Giehl, Steve Ward from Becket Hall; Tom Koester, Ogdensburg, and Tom Mullaney, Fairfield University in Connecticut. The camp office is at 50 Chestnut St.

Day Care Center Sets Celebration

The Day Care Training Center for Handicapped Children of Monroe County, Inc. will celebrate the twenty-first anniversary of its founding with a dinner-dance at the Mapledale Party House on Thursday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Edward N. Weber, a member of the board of directors, will receive a plaque in recognition of her service over many years.

The Day Care Service, in the Al Sigi Center, has a current enrollment of 152 mentally retarded children, many of whom have multiple handicaps. An additional 70 are served through a home training program.

APPETIZER

Get a company dinner off to a good start with drained canned fruit cocktail topped with a scoop of pale green lime sherbet.

Statement on the War

A joint statement from the Rochester Catholic Diocese, the Area Council of Churches and the Jewish Community Council, announced May 13.

Authorized representatives of three faith communities of the Rochester area have been moved to make a common statement on the present national crisis which grows out of the war in Indo-China.

We are convinced that this war, ever more brutal, continuously destructive of life and decent human values constitutes a great moral evil.

The war has created dangerous polarization and violent antagonisms at home.

Credibility and faith between government and people have been severely damaged.

We condemn any escalation of this war. We encourage all forms of peaceful dissent expressed in direct communication to Congress and to the President.

Additional strong initiatives must be taken to end the war and to get the troops home. We see the vigorous efforts of the University National Petition Campaign as a means to this end and therefore we endorse its resolution.



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