

# Report outlines crisis of affordable housing

WASHINGTON (NC) — New statistical data proves that "decent and affordable housing is beyond the reach of millions of American families" and constitutes a crisis that threatens the nation as well as its poor, a U.S. Catholic Conference official said April 17.

"The American dream of decent housing has become a nightmare for too many (who are) paying most of their meager incomes for inadequate housing, stretching their scarce resources until they break," said John L. Carr, secretary of the USCC Department of Social Development and World Peace.

Carr joined other housing advocates at a Washington news conference to announce release of a new report chronicling America's housing problems.

The 80-page report, "A Place to Call Home: The Crisis in Housing for the Poor," was prepared by two Washington-based non-profit research centers, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the Low-Income Housing Information Service.

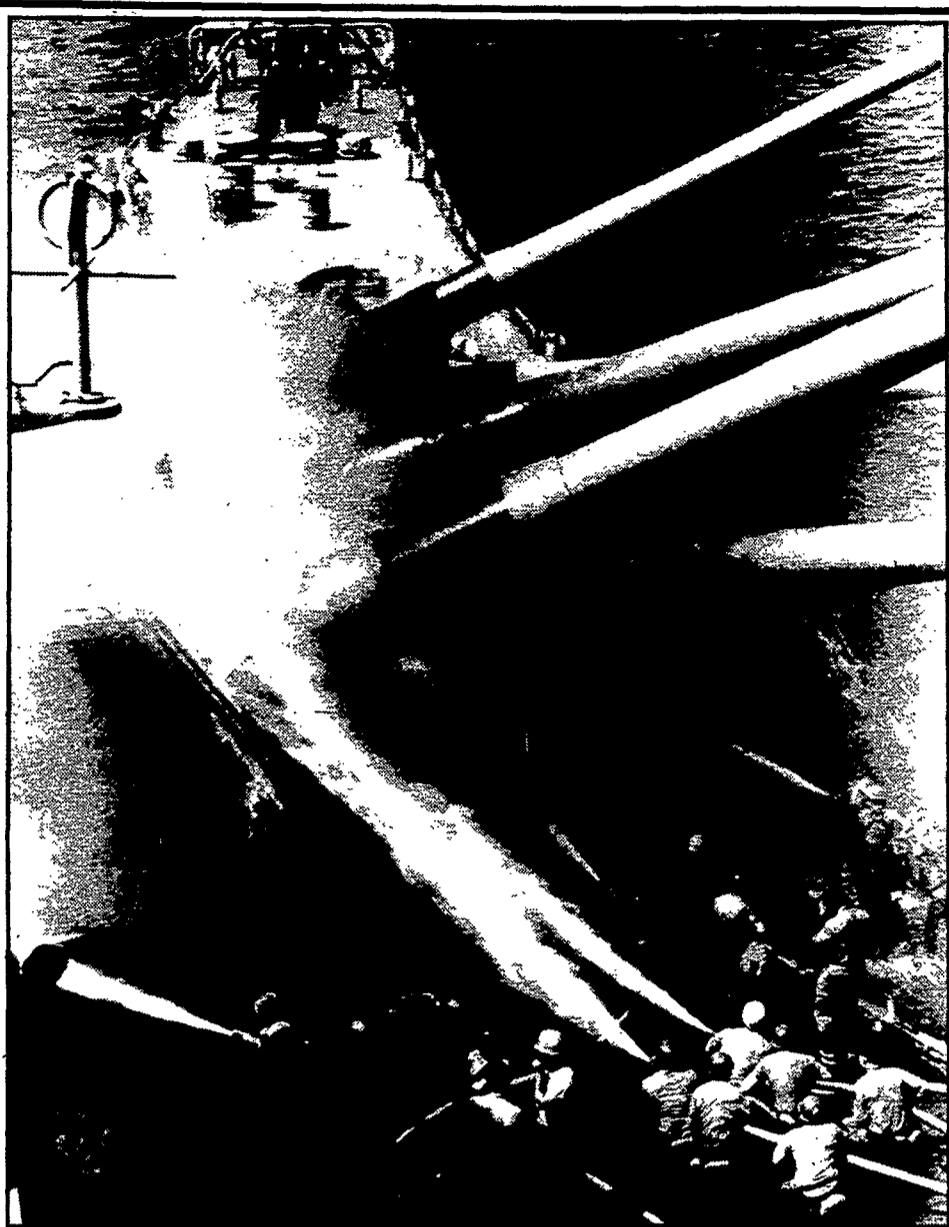
"Behind these numbers, statistics and charts that make up this report lie millions of individual tragedies," said Carr.

Inadequately housed Americans "are on our doorsteps and in our shelters," added

the official for the USCC, the public policy agency of the National of Catholic Bishops. "They are the homeless waiting to happen, terribly vulnerable to losing their home because they pay so much of their income for it," he said. "The brutal realities laid out in this report are destroying lives, undermining families, hurting communities and tearing apart the social fabric of our nation."

The report also should help explain "that private efforts like ours and support for emergency shelters, while essential, are inadequate" in the face of needs, Carr said. "It is a clear message to President Bush, Housing and Urban Development Secretary (Jack) Kemp, the leaders of both parties in Congress and all those involved in housing policy to put the needs of the poor first in designing new housing policy for our nation."

Although the federal government defines as "affordable" housing that consumes no more than 30 percent of household income, 63 percent of low-income renters paid 51 percent or more of their income for housing, the report said. Nearly half of all low-income homeowners spent 51 percent or more of their their incomes on housing, according to the report.



Crew members aboard the USS Iowa train firehoses on the number two turret after an explosion and fire killed 47 sailors off the coast of Puerto Rico, Wednesday, April 19.

AP/Wide World Photos

## NBC movie to profile woman behind 'Roe vs. Wade' decision

By Sister Mary Ann Walsh  
NC News

WASHINGTON — NBC has announced it will broadcast in May *Roe v. Wade*, a made-for-TV movie about the controversial 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

The program tentatively has been scheduled for Monday, May 15, 9-11 p.m. EDT, an NBC staff member in Los Angeles said April 13, shortly after production of the fact-based drama was completed.

Holly Hunter, who was nominated for an Oscar for her performance in the hit movie "Broadcast News," stars as an unmarried pregnant carnival barker in Texas whose desire to have an abortion led to the controversial 1973 Supreme Court ruling. Actress Amy Madigan stars as Sarah Weddington, who was the recent law school graduate who argued the case all the way to the nation's highest court.

The May broadcast comes at a time of increased focus on the abortion controversy. On April 26, the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments in *Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services Inc.*, a dispute over a Missouri law scuttled by lower federal courts. Abortion rights groups fear — and abortion opponents hope — that the Supreme Court will use the case to limit abortion or overturn the 1973 decision that struck down state laws against abortion.

An estimated 300,000 people April 9 joined in a National Organization for Women march at the Capitol in Washington to keep abortion legal. At the same time, right-to-life supporters prayed at a "cemetery" of 4,400 crosses placed by the

American Coalition for Life near the Capitol to symbolize the number of abortions that take place each day.

Since 1974, pro-life supporters have held an annual march in Washington in January to mark the 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision.

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