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FINAL

NATIONAL TOWN MEETING

WASHINGTON, D.C.

SEPTEMBER 10, 1975

THE HUMANE CITY: THE URBAN HOPE?

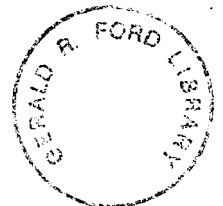
IN THE LAST HALF DECADE WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO THE REALIZATION THAT WE ARE A WASTEFUL PEOPLE.

THE GAS CRISIS TAUGHT US THAT WE WASTE ENERGY. THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS TAUGHT US THAT WE WASTE OUR AIR AND WATER RESOURCES ON WHICH WE DEPEND FOR OUR SURVIVAL.

ANOTHER WASTING RESOURCES IS OUR CITIES, WHICH ARE DECAYING IN FULL VIEW OF ALL OF US.

SOMEHOW IN OUR YEARS OF ABUNDANCE WE DEVELOPED THE DISASTROUS NOTION THAT CITIES COULD BE DISCARDED AND REPLACED.

PUBLIC AS WELL AS PRIVATE INVESTMENT LITERALLY FINANCED THE BUILDING OF RING UPON RING OF SUBURBS AROUND OUR URBAN CENTERS.



AS THE CENTRAL CITIES GREW OLD AND THEIR STRUCTURES BECAME WORN, THOSE WHO COULD, FLED THE CITY CORE FOR THE NEWLY-BUILT SUBURBS.

THIS SUBURBAN SPRAWL HAS CONSUMED MILLIONS OF SQUARE MILES OF OPEN SPACES AND HAS ENCOURAGED THE WASTE OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF URBAN RESOURCES. FOR EXAMPLE, IN NEW YORK CITY ALONE, 35,000 UNITS OF HOUSING WERE ABANDONED LAST YEAR.

THE WASTE IS NOT IN THE ABANDONED HOUSING ALONE. FOR AN ABANDONED HOUSE ABANDONS A PART OF ALL THE SUPPORTIVE ASSETS THAT GAVE IT LIFE; THE UTILITIES, STREETS, SCHOOLS, WATER AND SEWER LINES, TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, HOSPITALS, THEATERS, AND SHOPPING FACILITIES.

A TIGHTER ECONOMY, A SCARCITY OF ENERGY, AND CHANGING DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS MANDATE THAT WE USE ALL THE INGENUITY WE CAN SUMMON TO PRESERVE AND RECYCLE THESE ASSETS.

OUR STUDIES CONCLUDE STATISTICALLY WHAT WE SHOULD HAVE CONCLUDED INTELLIGENTLY A DECADE AGO. IT IS FAR LESS COSTLY TO RECYCLE A CITY THAN TO BUILD A SUBURB.

AN URBAN REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MAY CONSUME 50 PERCENT LESS LAND, 55 PERCENT LESS CAPITAL, 44 PERCENT LESS ENERGY AND CREATE 45 PERCENT LESS AIR POLLUTION.

APART FROM THE COSTS INVOLVED, AMERICA HAS BEEN UNDERGOING A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN LIFE STYLES, EVIDENCED BY A REMARKABLE INCREASE IN ADULT-ORIENTED HOUSEHOLDS. SINGLES, YOUNG MARRIEDS, CHILDLESS COUPLES AND ELDERLY ACCOUNT FOR 82 PERCENT OF THE NATION'S NET POPULATION GAIN BETWEEN 1970 AND 1973.

THERE IS A GROWING DEMAND FOR LOW AND MODERATE COST HOUSING ACCESSIBLE TO JOBS AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES, AND FOR NEARBY SHOPPING FACILITIES, ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURAL AMENITIES.

TODAY, AMERICA IS LOOKING OVER THE ADVANTAGES OF URBAN LIVING THAT SHE CARELESSLY OVERLOOKED BEFORE.

AT THE SAME TIME HUD IS CELEBRATING THE FIRST BIRTHDAY OF THE NEW HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974 WHICH SEEKS, AS ONE OF ITS GOALS, TO PRESERVE OUR URBAN COMMUNITIES.



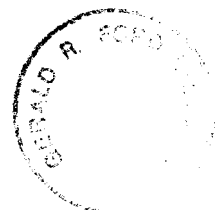
FOR THE FIRST TIME THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROVIDES RENTAL SUBSIDIES -- \$1.6 BILLION THIS YEAR -- TO HELP HOUSE OUR LOWER INCOME FAMILIES IN EXISTING AND SUBSTANTIALLY REHABILITATED UNITS, GIVING PREFERENCE WHERE THERE IS AN ECONOMIC MIX.

FOR THE FIRST TIME THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES DIRECT HOW, WHEN, AND WHERE FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDS ARE SPENT -- MORE THAN \$8 BILLION OVER 3 YEARS. OUR FIRST YEAR'S EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT LOCAL COMMUNITIES DIRECTED MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF THE \$2.6 BILLION TO PRESERVING AND REHABILITATING URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS.

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT A CITY IS PEOPLE AND THAT A HEALTHY CITY IS A CITY OF ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE, IN EVERY ECONOMIC STRATA, PROVIDING ENERGY, CREATIVITY, INGENUITY, EARNING POWER AND PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT.

THAT MIX GIVES THE CITY A HEALTHY HEART BEAT, AN EXCITING AMBIANCE, AND A RESPONSIVE SPIRIT.

THAT IS A HUMANE CITY.



THAT IS OUR GREAT URBAN HOPE.

AND, THAT IS WHAT HUD IS ABOUT.

