

ITEMS OF INTEREST RELATED TO HUD RAISED AT HEARINGS OF
RIBICOFF SUBCOMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE REORGANIZATION

November 30, 1966 (morning)

Senator Abraham Ribicoff, Chairman of the Subcommittee

At the start of today's hearing Senator Ribicoff acknowledged the receipt of a report prepared at the request of the Subcommittee by Mr. Gilbert Fefferman on behalf of the Department. Senator Ribicoff described Mr. Fefferman as "a noted authority on urban affairs" and declared that the report made an important contribution to the understanding of urban problems.

ROY WILKINS, Executive Director, National Association for Advancement of Colored People.

Mr. Wilkins discussed the reasons why government programs aimed at helping the Negro had not completely alleviated his plight. He criticized the viewpoint that the existence of despair and mistrust among Negroes justifies a slackening of governmental efforts. The expansion of federal programs in housing, education, employment, and civil rights was urged. The following specific points were made during his testimony:

1. Increased Expenditures for Low Income Housing

Mr. Wilkins advocated an immediate and large scale expansion of government expenditures which provide housing for low income families. He suggested that the \$50 billion figure mentioned in recent discussions of urban rehabilitation needs was a realistic estimate of the amount necessary to achieve a substantial impact on the problem of substandard housing. The enactment of housing legislation during the 89th Congress represented merely a first step.

2. The Demonstration Cities Program

Mr. Wilkins declared that the Demonstration Cities Program must not become a glorified form of urban renewal. He expressed confidence that Secretary Weaver would administer the program so that its objectives would be realized.

HARRY GOLDEN, Publisher, Carolina Israelite

Mr. Golden maintained that the Federal government was the only institution which could direct the attack upon urban problems. He stressed that reliance upon the private sector should not lead to a weakening of the Federal government's leadership role.