



NATIONAL URBAN
LEAGUE AFFILIATE

THE ATLANTA URBAN LEAGUE, INC.

An Educational Community Service Agency Covering Over 48 Years of Preventive Social Service

521-2355 • 239 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. • ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

September 8, 1969

Honorable George Romney
Secretary of Housing and
Urban Development
451 Seventh Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20410

Dear Mr. Secretary:

It has come to the attention of The Atlanta Urban League that the Federal Housing Administration is anticipating rehabilitation and sale of approximately 1,000 units of foreclosed Section 608 war housing in DeKalb County, Georgia. Reportedly, the disposition of the Oglethorpe Group Apartments is delayed, at the moment, by a suit against foreclosure brought by the previous owners of the project; however, it appears that the Federal Housing Administration has proceeded with plans for rehabilitation and disposition.

We are concerned that there are strong political and economic pressures attempting to prevent additional ownership by minority citizens in this part of the Atlanta Metropolitan area. We feel that an investigation into the racial implications and prejudices inherent in a commercial, profit motivated disposition is warranted. This project could be considered a regional, and certainly a local, resource in its application towards fulfilling the housing needs of poor and minority citizens.

The sale of the above-mentioned project for a profitable return to FHA is abhorrent to us and we strongly recommend your consideration of alternate proposals.

The program outlined by Interfaith, Inc., a local nonprofit church sponsored housing development corporation, deserves your firm support. Such a proposal would maximize ownership and participation in rehabilitation by minority citizens and would provide a wide range of income distribution within the project itself.



United Appeal Member Agency

Your consideration of the project and assistance in overcoming prejudice and inertia to this concept will have far reaching effects on the need for housing and assurance of positive Federal consideration toward eliminating the institutional vestiges of racism which have, for so long, dominated our region and this nation.

Sincerely,

Lyndon A. Wade, ACSW
Executive Director

LAW:cah

cc: Honorable Samuel Jackson
Honorable Samuel Simmons
Honorable Ivan Allen, Jr. ✓
Mr. Carey Hooks
Mr. Bruce G. Gruber