

Don Sweet

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 17, 1968

Mr. Cecil Alexander
Chairman
Housing Resources Committee
City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Alexander:

I am writing in response to your request for an evaluation of the presentation made to the Construction and Design Subcommittee of the Housing Resources Committee by Mr. McNamara on Tuesday, March 26. You will recall that this was a presentation of a new concept for the fabrication of residential units.

This concept involved pouring on site, by use of vacuum forms, concrete elements of a standardized nature which would become elements of multi-family residential buildings. The standardized elements could be varied from job to job and from unit to unit in such a way as to make them adaptable to the needs of various sites and architectural plans.

It is my opinion, as Chairman of the Construction and Design Subcommittee, and that of those with whom I have talked who were present at this slide presentation, that the concept is a good one but that it is at this point in time only a concept and not a proven plan. It is my opinion that Mr. McNamara should find a developer who is willing to develop this idea on an actual building project involving a number of multi-family units. If such a developer can be found, this may well be an excellent concept to utilize in the model city program as it does represent one innovation in the field of attempting to provide low income housing. The model city program should be considered because of a necessity for requiring a reasonable sized tract of land in order to build enough units to analyze the validity of Mr. McNamara's proposed technique. It is, after all, an experimental project and one which is yet to be proven in the field.

There are many possible applications of pre-fabricated elements within these units which should be explored, but which may be restricted at this time by various codes. If maximum saving is to be attained in this kind of project, the use of prefabricated fixtures and materials must be allowed subject to carefully drawn requirements.

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In summary, it is our belief that this is a good concept but that it is only a concept at this time and that it does require actual construction of a number of units in order to properly evaluate the technique on any objective basis.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin D. Harrison
President

EDH:lhs

cc: Colonel Malcolm Jones ✓
Mr. Moreland Smith
Mr. Bob Winn