

SW

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Does the law offer John Q. Citizen any protection whatsoever from unscrupulous real estate operators? Will Atlanta become another Washington and, if so, who will pay the taxes?

A case in point is the Cascade Heights area. Someone, for reasons known only to himself, is approached by or gets in touch with an operator who sells real estate primarily to Negroes. A sale is made and the rumors start, some of them probably planted. People panic and then other operators zero in on the area and start a flood of letters (see attached), phone calls and knocks on the door. It is a frightening thing to see the reaction of the people. Carloads of Negroes cruise the area. One more neighborhood has received the "kiss of death." When the word gets out, it is impossible to sell except to Negroes. Check the Red Bud Lane section and see for yourself.

My neighborhood, a different one from that above, has just received the kiss that can bring disaster. We are trying desperately to hold it together. In our case, an all-white neighborhood, the sale was made at midnight, literally, two weeks ago last Saturday.

Most of us move into a particular area because we like the neighborhood, we know the people, or as a matter of economics. Some are retired people with limited incomes; some are middle-aged who, after rearing their children, were looking forward to a more leisurely life; many are young couples who have just purchased their first home. In the latter case, particularly, it has taken all they can rake and scrape to make the down payment. Now, with their homes deflated, what are they going to do for money in order to make a fresh start somewhere else? We, too, should have a choice in selecting our neighbors.

Why do we not have speculative housing for Negroes instead of destroying established areas -- or is there more profit in blockbusting?

I am a real person, but I fear harassment if my name gets out. I can be reached through Mr. Tom Oxnard at The Weekly Star if anyone desires verification of the above.

Enclosure

Copy to: Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. ✓
Eugene Patterson, Editor, The Atlanta Constitution
Frank Smisson, Ga. Real Estate Commission
Tom Oxnard, Editor, The Weekly Star