

Atlanta and Housing

MAYOR IVAN Allen's effort to replace 17,000 slum housing units with good low - cost units has run into near - sightedness in the Board of Aldermen.

It also is being mired in old discriminatory practices by construction, sales, rental and lending institutions in the housing field. More and more it is becoming evident that Atlanta must tackle its housing problems as a whole.

If nothing else indicates that, then what is happening in Milwaukee should. Milwaukee is having demonstrations, which sometimes are breaking into violence, because it has not faced up to housing discrimination. Louisville not long ago had a serious period of deadlock and unrest for the same reason. Atlanta cannot avoid this unless it faces the problem.

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THE MAYOR'S "CRASH" program on housing is directed not toward the discrimination problem but simply toward the shortage of units. Giving this No. 1 priority in the city's affairs last November, he set a goal of 16,800 low-cost units by 1971. Within that goal was an interim target of 9,800 units during 1967 and 1968.

At first the response appeared to be good. By May, the mayor's Housing Resources Committee reported that 7,264 units were "in sight," with more than half of these in the "firm" category and the rest marked "probable."

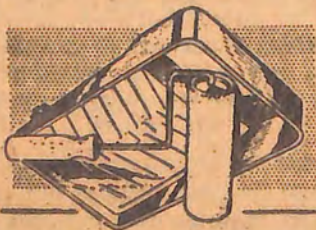
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BUT EVEN THEN THE housing committee was cautious. It said that there was "little reason to assume an optimistic attitude toward future efforts," and added: "At this time combinations of federal policies, zoning problems, land costs, code requirements and general uncertainty pertaining to the program have se-

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