

No 'Blockbusting' In Cascade Heights

Dear Sir:

Members of the Empire Real Estate Board are much concerned about erroneous accusations of "block busting" in the Cascade Heights area. In conformance with the realtists code of ethics we always have cooperated with civic and community groups in developing peaceful and orderly transaction of housing where tensions have arisen from the acute housing situation affecting Negroes, mostly through the Metropolitan Planning Commission. Our members have never participated in or encouraged "block busting" at any time.

Investigation reveals that no Negro broker has initiated action to secure listings in the Cascade area, but we found numbers of occasions where white property owners in the Gordon Road and adjacent Adamsville sections have solicited services of our members. Many of the listings have been refused and there is no intention of these realtists to seek listings in the vast Cascade Heights area.

What is needed by Negro homeseekers is smaller new and used houses in price range from \$6,000 to \$18,000. The new Title 221 housing meets the requirement only where our clients can quality with FHA regulations. Age and income restrictions, therefore require, conventional financing for new and used houses of the class mentioned which incidentally, are not available.

Cascade Heights is not, therefore, a solution to the problem and alarmed white property owners are advised to seek the advice of the Metropolitan Planning Commission, at the outset, when they are faced with personal and community situations which might lead to tensions from unfounded rumors.

Again we call upon and urge Atlanta's Board of Aldermen and the Fulton County Commissions to assume their responsibility in relieving a situation where 38 per cent of the population is restricted to 16 per cent of the land, when there are thousands of acres of vacant land in our fine community.

J. T. Bickers, President
Empire Real Estate Board

*File
GWC*