

# Opposition to Scatter-Site Housing Transcends Racial and Economic Lines

By JONATHAN KANDELL

A majority of the scatter-site housing projects now being planned by the city for the non-elderly poor are in areas that bear little resemblance to the white, middle-class Forest Hills community, where a controversy has raged over construction of an 840-unit low-income complex.

But talks with scores of residents in neighborhoods where scatter-site projects will house low-income minority groups indicate that resentment is widespread and transcends racial and economic lines.

In the predominantly white middle-class Kingsbridge section of the Bronx, for example, opponents of a second scatter-site planned for the area emphasize their fear of crime. But similar arguments are also put forth by residents of the Baisley Park Houses, a low-income project section of Jamaica, Queens, in an overwhelmingly black area where the city's Housing Authority is planning a scatter-site project.

A survey by the New York Times of 16 of the 24 designated scatter-site develop-

ments indicates that eight of these projects are exclusively for the elderly and have aroused little community opposition.

Among the projects surveyed where poor, minority-group tenants will be housed, two are in a white middle-class area comparable to Forest Hills, Queens; two will be placed in communities that are only marginally middle-income and undergoing rapid transition and three are being built in low-income, minority - group neighborhoods.

"We may have been derelict in failing to explain to the public the nature of scatter-site housing," said Simon Golar, chairman of the city's Housing Authority, in an interview. "We might have been better served by explaining that some of the projects we have in the pipeline are in middle-income areas and some are not."

Mr. Golar said that although racial and economic integration was an implicit goal in scatter site housing proposals put forth by Mayor Lindsay since 1966, "Federal regulations only require that this type of housing

be placed outside of ghetto areas."

"Our sites have been approved by H.U.D. [the Department of Housing and Urban Development] and conform to these guidelines," he added.

### Values of Society

Mr. Golar maintained that nonwhite, other than middle-class opposition to some of the scatter-site projects was a case of "minority groups reflecting the values of the majority class in a society."

He attributed the large number of projects exclusively devoted to the elderly to legal and practical reasons.

"When it becomes difficult to get housing through," he noted, "communities are always more amenable to projects for the elderly — partly because the elderly are usually white and partly because the community appreciates the need for housing these people."

family in a federally funded low-income project, and \$5,500 a room for elderly tenants. The law has since been revised, but still provides substantially more for construction for the elderly.

"We have had to mix elderly with lower-income families to receive the necessary construction funds for a project," Mr. Golar said. "And in some cases, we have had to build housing exclusively for the elderly because funds were not available to include other low-income tenants."

Since the scatter-site program was announced by Mayor Lindsay in 1966, only three such projects, totaling 1,090 units, have been completed and rented: the 423-unit Latimer Gardens (Flushing, Queens), with 33 per cent occupancy by the elderly; the 287-unit Throgs Neck Addition (Bronx), with 39 per cent occupancy by the elderly, built adjacent to an existing 1,183-unit low-income project; and the 380-unit Cassidy Place (West New Brighton, Staten Island) project, exclusively for the aged.

Largely because of community opposition, the city has had to abandon eight sites, which the Housing Au-

thority still lists as "dormant."

Moreover, a 559-unit project heatedly contested by the largely middle-class community of Lindenwood, Queens, suffered a major setback last November when the Board of Estimate refused to permit a zoning change to accommodate it. And a 320-unit project in the middle-income Flushing-Hillcrest community has been stalled because the Housing Authority has been unable to acquire a strip of land.

There are 19 other scatter-site projects — totaling 4,616 units — in various stages of planning or construction. Tenants will be chosen from a public housing waiting list that now includes 149,000 families, or about 500,000 people.

The Kingsbridge section of the Bronx — a predominantly Irish and Jewish neighborhood of dreary gray, brown and red brick apartments interspersed with dilapidated wooden frame houses — will be the location of two scatter-site buildings.

There have been few recent outcries against a 20-story, 233-unit building nearing completion at Bailey Ave-

nue and 193d Street. But, just eight blocks away, at the corner of Fort Independence and Heath Avenues, another planned 344-unit low-income project, with 38 per cent occupancy by the elderly, has stirred emotional community opposition.

Two weeks ago, about 300 white, middle-class residents staged their first protest, a night march from a local junior high school to the site of the Fort Independence-Heath project.

### Some Sympathetic

Some complained that the neighborhood's schools were already overcrowded, that there were few shopping facilities, and that city services in the area were already overstrained. But most expressed open fear of increased crime, which they asserted, would result from the presence of low-income minority group residents in the project.

Not all the community residents are opposed to low-income projects in the area. A group of mothers with children in Marble Hill Elementary School, 260 Kingsbridge Road, is discussing ways to welcome tenants of the Bailey Avenue scatter site into the neighborhood through orientation programs and social meetings.

"I'm in favor of scatter-site housing in principle," said Mrs. Ann Rouso, a member of the school's Parents Association, "but I don't know if you can educate people so that they aren't afraid of the projects."

In Baisley Park, a predominantly poor, black section of Jamaica, the Housing Au-

thority has encountered an unexpected, low-key opposition from residents of five low-income buildings the city constructed 12 years ago.

Tenants of the red brick complex — called Baisley Park Houses — have asked Housing Authority officials that a nearby strip of land where the city is planning to erect a 158-unit scatter-site building be used instead for a supermarket and community center.

The project's residents — many of whom moved from slums — speak with pride of "working hard to keep the place up" and with concern about "who our neighbors are."

"We want to make sure that there is a limit to the number of welfare people, and problem families that move into the project," said Mrs. Alice Evans, president of the Baisley Park Houses Tenants Association, which, she asserted, represents 120 of the 385 families in the buildings.

"If the Housing Authority is taking so much time to assure the Forest Hills people about who will be moving into their project, we should get the same assurances," Mrs. Evans added.

In East New York, the Housing Authority is completing a 336-unit scatter-site project at the corner of Pennsylvania and Wortman Avenues, on the site of what older residents recall was "the last farm in Brooklyn" — the Wortman Dairy.

Both white and black residents in the vicinity — an integrated enclave of middle-income high-rises and private homes that the community

has dubbed Spring Creek — complain that middle-class families are pouring out of the neighborhood, that police protection, education and other services are badly needed.

But protests against the project are subdued because residents are hoping that a large cooperative planned for the area will be built to attract a new middle class. And they fear that demonstrations will only scare off what they consider a potentially stabilizing element.

In the East Tremont section of the Bronx — in a neighborhood which is about 60 per cent Spanish speaking, 40 per cent black and almost entirely poverty-stricken — there is no opposition to two planned scatter-site projects — a 238-unit building near the intersection of Monterey Avenue and 180th Street, and a 369-unit project at Prospect Avenue and 180th Street.

Some shopowners on East Tremont Avenue call the street the "Ho Chi Minh Trail," noting bitterly that 125 stores in the area have recorded more than 1,200 robberies during the last year.

The only concern of residents of the decayed tenements that rise amid gutted buildings and garbage-strewn lots is how to get into the new projects.

## Women's Caucus Has New Rallying Cry: 'Make Policy, Not Coffee'

By LAURIE JOHNSTON

"Make policy, not coffee" is the slogan these days among members of the new Women's Political Caucus.

The slogan sums up other things the members say, too: "Enough of being politically divided and conquered. . . . No more doing mainly the campaign chores, even if glamorous, for male candidates. . . . 'Sisterhood is powerful' all right, but only if it's in the mainstream of decision-making."

Born in July in Washington, the National Women's Political Caucus has Representative Bella Abzug as its mother-figure and Betty Friedan of the women's liberation movement, as a devoted aunt.

Whether Representative Shirley Chisholm, another founder of the caucus, will become its stepchild remains to be seen. The caucus is a deliberately venturesome teaming of women skilled in male-dominated politics with proponents of the new feminist "consciousness-raising."

"There was a funny language gap, between those who said 'women' and those who said 'ladies' or 'gals,' that bugged us for a while," a participant in the caucus said.

### 3 Assembly Members Join

In New York State the movement has the support of all three woman members of the assembly: Rosemary R. Gunning of Queens, a Conservative Republican, and Constance E. Cook of Ithaca, a liberal Republican, and Mary Ann Krupsak of Amsterdam, a Democrat.

"You run into Women's Political Caucus people in unexpected places up here," said a woman political reporter in Albany. "They don't even keep a very low profile since the November meeting here organized by the Woman's Program of the Governor's office. Not technically a caucus meeting, but 800 political women. Albany was in an uproar."

A follow-up meeting will be held March 4 and 5. Determined to be "punctiliously grass roots," the Manhattan caucus has scheduled an election for today to choose a 12-member coordinating council.

"Purely administrative," said Cathy Samuels, a committee member, "with all policy decision to be made by the caucus as a whole."

"We're not going to exchange a bunch of authoritarian men for a bunch of authoritarian women."

The movement says that it is "multi-partisan" and that it

is "well off the ground in at least 35 states."

Representative Abzug, a Democrat, shares the national chairmanship with Virginia Allen, a Republican who formerly headed President Nixon's Task Force on Women.

The Manhattan Women's Political Caucus, like others around the state and country, is building pressure toward the election-year goal: women as 50 per cent of each delegation to the party nominating conventions. And they do not mean 100 per cent of the alternates.

Members here welcomed the recent prediction by the New York State Democratic chairman, Joseph F. Crangle, that the state delegation would live up to the equal-ratio guidelines adopted by the Democratic National Committee.

But, as one woman expressed it, "We'll believe it when we see it."

In the meantime, the caucus is teaching members how to run as delegates and a dozen young women lawyers, headed by Brenda Feigen Fasteau, are preparing for legal action against any discrimination that turns up in the choosing of states.

"We'll challenge all the way to the convention floors, if necessary," she said, conceding greater difficulty in the case of the Republicans because that party has made only a general pledge to increase women delegates.

Similarly, the caucuses are demanding an equal chance for women of elective and appointive offices, in proportion to their 50 per cent of the national population and 53 per cent of the electorate.

### Candidates Interviewed

In theory, at least, individual members can work for any "nonsexist" candidate, male or female, who is responsive to women's issues. These, it is generally agreed, include peace and racial equality as well specific social and economic concerns of women and children.

Candidates from Presidential to precinct-level are being interviewed and monitored by caucus teams.

"It's really an 'I Spy' operation right now, the way we're keeping total records on all of them," Danielle Sandow, a Manhattan committee chairman, said with a touch of glee.

To endorse or not to endorse? That is one of the many questions now facing the movement—which wants to be "cohesive," but which also likes to describe itself as "freeform" or even "anarchic" and "certainly not an organization."

Outsiders might, in fact, be reminded of the "Alice in Won-

derland" caucus-race: "The exact shape doesn't matter. . . . The best way to explain it is to do it."

Most members agree with Representative Abzug that the women's caucus will increase its "clout and leverage" with all parties by focusing on issues instead of candidates, "at least at this early stage."

"There are many tactics," Representative Abzug said. "Mistakes will be made, but you have to concentrate your energies and pick your spots."

### A Limited Role

"But how can we not support Shirley Chisholm?" an upstate member asked. "She personifies everything we stand for—the 'new majority' coalition of unrepresented people."

Representative Abzug and the national board have confined themselves to "encouraging" Representative Chisholm's Presidential candidacy.

"I'm tired of the infighting. I haven't got time to keep up with it all," Representative Chisholm said with a laugh.

"But as women begin to flex their political muscle, it's like the black groups. You have to expect different positions and different solutions, and some caucus members certainly wouldn't be for me."

Carole Lee Taylor, one of the black members of the national caucus board, is assistant director of the Woman's Program of the state. Because she is a Republican, she said, "it's been something ludicrous, up to now, how I can't work for Shirley."

In a multi-partisan caucus, she feels, she can work for some of Representative Chisholm's causes.

"Eventually we won't even have to deal with endorsements," Carole Lee Taylor predicted. "We're going to be so together, everybody will know where we're coming from."

Since its beginnings in September, the 700-member Manhattan caucus has dealt with growing pains and identity crises.

It has direct links with the national board, which has 10 members from New York. But, like the Brooklyn caucus headed by Carol Bellamy, it now functions independently of the Tri-State Women's Political Caucus, Inc., which was organized by Roslyn Willett of Manhattan.

The Manhattan woman denies that her groups are "more conservative." "Maybe just more practical," she said.

The Queens caucus, led by Marilyn Marcossion, works comfortably with both camps.

The tri-state caucus group, which pre-dated the national founding meeting, has affiliates in all the boroughs, Long Island, upstate, New Jersey and Connecticut. Parallel groups in the areas are affiliated only with the national caucus.

## WHITE HOUSE SCORES DOCK STRIKE LEADER

KEY BISCAIYNE, Fla., Feb. 5 (UPI)—The White House today accused Harry Bridges, head of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, of "intransigence" and urged Congress to force a settlement of the West Coast dock strike before the Lincoln's Birthday recess next week.

"It is inconceivable that Congress would go home next week" without passing the Administration's legislation to end the seven-month-long tie-up, said Ronald L. Ziegler, President Nixon's press secretary. Mr. Nixon is spending the weekend here.

Although negotiations resumed today in San Francisco, Mr. Ziegler discounted the probability of a negotiated settlement.

He accused Mr. Bridges of making "veiled threats against the nation."

Mr. Bridges said in Congressional testimony yesterday that if the Government forced his 15,000 dock workers back to their jobs, it might find itself with a slowdown on its hands and that union friends in other countries might refuse to load vessels destined for West Coast ports.

"I think this is an unfortunate attitude," said Mr. Ziegler. "This country and the West Coast have suffered too long."

## Press Club on Coast Keeps Ban on Women

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 5 (UPI)—Women will remain banned from full voting membership in the San Francisco Press Club.

Dick Alexander, president of the club, announced this week that his proposal to accept female members fell far short of the two-thirds majority, or 346 affirmative votes, required.

"It did not surprise me," Mr. Alexander said. "In fact, I am delighted that 247 people in the club recognize that women are human beings. I still hope that sometime we will have a press club without discrimination for race, sex or anything else."

The club has 68 "news-women" associate members. But they cannot use all the facilities, such as a swimming pool and upstairs bar, and they cannot vote.

### Big Seizure of Marijuana

CAPETOWN, Feb. 5 (Reuters)—The police confiscated nearly 9.4 million pounds of marijuana in the year ended last June, Police Minister Lourens Muller has told parliament. He estimated the drug's value, if sold illegally, at more than \$48-million.

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