

Monstrous cranes and ugly iron wrecking balls gnaw into mounds of dingy brick,--the crumbling landmarks of a past and decayed life. Memorable but now uprooted trees lie across torn-up sidewalks. Scaffolding...concrete mixers...overgrown skeletons of steel tower arrogantly over piles of rubble and dust, the graveyards of buildings that died a feeble death...a jungle of destruction---and creation !

But such beautiful creations no one has ever beheld--and yet, called by some "archetectural massacre". Tall buildings of glass are now the slender reflections of the new archetects at their new drawing boards;the slender reflections of a new and modern era.

And soon, these too deteriorate; their graves must also be dug by the monstrous cranes. No one seems to care about these ugly buildings anymore;they are covered with the fated blanket of garbage and presided over by the dreaded landlords. It has become a slum, the ghetto\$ of the jobless, unwanted and poor, where the enemy is the rat, and the hero the one who doesn't take nonsense from anyone. Is this to be the future of our greatest city ?

Such a huge and variegated city as New York presents a kaled<sup>i</sup>doscope of problems as well as fascination. Among one of the greatest is the problems of clearing squalid slums. This brings forth the need for good housing, which adds to both the dignity and pride of a family and to the dignity and pride of a city.

Clearing out slums not only involves demolition work, but also, the relocation of impoverished families must be offered standard housing at

A program similar to the Work Projects Administration which existed under the New Deal may satisfy the problems. The former program was established for the specific purpose of providing jobs for the millions of the unemployed by means of special state and local projects. The new program would be established for the specific purpose of constructing local projects by means of providing jobs for the unemployed.

A National Youth Administration which was established within the WPA is quite similar to the Neighborhood Youth Corps Program in that they both provide jobs for youths. It is also similar to Job Orientation in Neighborhood, a new program for the unemployed and untrained high school dropouts. With programs such as these, financed and backed by as much federal support as possible, success should be inevitable. One of the aims of the program would be to give better housing to all those in need, not just a random choice in order to fill out an integration quota. The program has a goal too, and this is to house all the lower income families, who presently live in dirty slums. The New York Housing authority has been set up to handle this monstrous problem of public housing. It represents the major means of providing decent and sanitary housing for the city's impoverished and troubled people. However in order to enter this housing program, applicants must be able to pass a long list of eligibility requirements. And who is to take care of the 300,000 "ineligibles" if the Housing Authority won't? This is only one setback of the New York Housing Authority.

at prices or rents they can afford in locations convenient to their work. This legal requirement has proved to be a farce, for a recent study, "The Federal Bulldozer", by Martin Anderson indicates that a great many people evicted by urban renewal are paying higher rents now for housing that is as bad as or worse than that taken from them. Therefore new slums may be created from mass clearance.

Many of the timeworn tenement buildings that somehow remain standing today belong to generations of long past societies. Families of ten sometimes occupy a one-room apartment. But the occupants have to live there; they cannot afford to live anywhere else. Thus, there is definitely a need for a good public housing program in New York City, a program with an overall view of the city,--and with authority backed by the support of all the people and the financial aid of all those who can afford it. Such a program is hard to formulate.

But such a program should and must exist. "City Hall has got to have a successful program to redound to the credit of City Hall".<sup>1</sup> The program should exist as a help and not as a political fiasco. It must have leaders who will disregard this political pressure; leaders who will understand and share the problems of the people; yet leaders who will not allow feelings to influence their work.

Such leaders do not, unfortunately, exist in great abundance. There are some, indeed, such as those working on the block project in Harlem, or those who organize protests against tenants' poor conditions until they are satisfied. But more leaders are needed, and more people should take a broader interest.

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1. Reinert, Sue. "Fro J O I N: A Slowly Growing Acceptance". (In New York Herald Tribune, March 15, 1965. p. 15)

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**Monstrous**

This level of commitment has proved to be a failure, for a recent study,

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There are some, indeed, such as those working on the Black Project

in New York, or those who organize protests against tenement poor conditions

will they be satisfied, that some leaders are needed, and more would

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1. "The Federal Highway," by Martin Anderson, "The New York Times," March 11, 1967, p. 12.

Let the monstrous cranes and ugly iron wrecking balls continue to gnaw;-let scaffolding, concrete mixers, and overgrown skeletons of steel continue to tower arrogantly. But let there be no more mounds of dingy brick for the cranes and wrecking balls to gnaw into. And let there be no more piles of rubble and dust for overgrown skeletons of steel to tower arrogantly over.

## Bibliography

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3. Reinert, Sue. "For J O I N: A Slowly Growing Acceptance." (In  
New York Herald Tribune, March 15, 1965)
4. Strother, Robert S. "Self-Help: An Answer to Urban Renewal" (In  
Reader's Digest, Feb. 1965.)