

being used to determine the effectiveness of the television programs. A mailout instrument is also being used to evaluate the meetings, letter series and Fix-It-Festival.

A summary of the project will be completed by the end of August 1974, and will be made available through Extension Service, USDA.

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MISSISSIPPI EXTENSION PROGRAMS FOR HOUSING STAFFS

Until Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service (MCES) became involved, the only in-service training offered for staffs of low income multi-family housing was that provided at the annual meeting of Mississippi Association of Rehabilitation and Housing Officials.

Over the years MCES has developed a working relationship with local housing authorities. Recently, other low income multi-family housing managers have been offered similar services, ranging from programs for management level and maintenance personnel at the state level to various educational services for tenants at the local level. MCES arranged and conducted one seminar for managers in 1972 and two in 1974. A workshop for maintenance personnel was conducted in 1972. Speakers from out of state as well as University teaching and Extension staffs provided the training for the first programs. MCES arranged the general sessions for the 1974 seminars using University staff, directors of local housing authorities (LHA) and HUD staff. Topics of

discussion were management principles, communications, understanding tenants and solving problems of management. The HUD area office conducted workshops on operational procedures for the managers of LHA and multi-family insured housing.

Special project funds were used to pay speakers and for other expenses. Participants were responsible for their own expenses. MCES will be glad to share copies of the programs and answer any questions about this activity.

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OREGON EXTENSION SERVICE PLANS TV SERIES ON ENERGY CRISIS

The Oregon State Extension Service assisted the Oregon Association of Home Builders with a Spring short course on "Building with the Energy Crisis as Boss." Now the Extension Service is planning a television series that will deal with energy considerations in site selection, orientation of the building on the lot, home design, selection of materials for construction, structural lighting, heating, and cooling equipment, color and texture, and control of humidity and moisture condensation.

The Oregon Extension Service is looking for valid research data, for innovations, and for bulletins that can be purchased for a home study course to accompany the television series. All input from AAHE members will be welcomed, and will be recycled through the *Housing Educators Journal*. (An example of the type of material available is Pacific Power

Housing Educators Journal 33

and Light Company's dandy "Do-It-Yourself Home Insulation Guide," available through this author for \$1.00.)

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THESIS ABSTRACT:

CITIZEN ACTION IN HOUSING ISSUES: A CASE STUDY

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(Thesis Advisor: Betty Jo White)

An exploratory case study sought to examine the means by which a neighborhood action group in a metropolitan area dealt with its housing problems. The primary goal was to identify forces bearing on the effectiveness of the group in meeting its housing need. Data were gathered from many sources that previously had reported on the housing conditions of the neighborhood and the related activities of a group known as the Coalition. To acquire greater depth of

understanding about these housing problems and activities, interviews were conducted with representatives of agencies and organizations which had engaged in activities affecting housing in the area. It was found that the neighborhood exhibited many characteristics of a declining area, including: property deterioration; overcrowding; traffic problems; obsolescence of community facilities; shortage of educational, recreational, parking and other facilities; and exodus of higher income, better educated families. Although there was no empirical evidence to support suspicions of exploitation by absentee landlords, or financial declining of the area respondents suggested that these phenomena were present. The Coalition, as a citizens action group, began in 1969 to deal with some of the above problems. There were many factors that affected goal achievement, including: initial lack of expertise in housing and planning; lack of economic and political power; competition from other neighborhoods; little active citizen support; and lack of funding. Despite these problems the Coalition was successful in the area of rehabilitation of homes, had formed a homeownership financing program, and had been awarded a one million dollar housing grant by the city. Within the Coalition, itself, there was disagreement between factions on how best to achieve community development — a difference of opinion that had not led to serious problems, but that must not be overlooked.