

Self Help Housing, slide- cassette tape series developed by Trudy Fish and Curt Tuck. 64 slides/ cassette tape- audible pulsing. \$37.00. Available from: T. Fish, 9250 Edwards Way, Adelphi, Maryland 20783.

The ability to improve both the physical and the social environment of families has been a big factor in the success of the FHA Self-Help Housing program. Since 1964 around 5000 homes have been built under this project. This slide series examines the program by answering the following questions:

- when did the program begin?
- what kinds of help does it provide?
- in what ways is Self-Help housing unique?
- are there any beneficial secondary consequences of the program?

A project in St. Mary's County, Maryland is shown before, during and after the Self-Help program. The involvement of individuals outside the project, the way various problems were solved, and the dedication of the family members is depicted. Photos taken three and a half years after the project was completed show how community cohesiveness has continued to provide a successful neighborhood environment.

This series is very effective in that it presents factual information concerning Self-Help housing, as well as a demonstration of how it works.

—Cynthia Walker
Auburn University

A Time for Accounting. The Housing and Community Development Act in the South. A monitoring report by Raymond Brown, with Ann Coil and Carol Rose. Southern Regional Council, Inc. 52 Fairlie St. N.W., Atlanta, GA. 30303. (ATTN: Publications). \$4.00 per copy. \$3.00 per copy for ten or more.

This report, funded by grants from the Carnegie Corporation, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Mary Reynolds Babbrook Foundation,

is based upon on-the-spot investigations in 26 southern cities and towns during the summer of 1975. The report documents that very few of those 26 spent the bulk of their community development funds on projects to benefit low and moderate income persons.

For example: \$150,000 for the construction of a tennis complex in an affluent section of Little Rock, Ark.; a \$50,000 tennis complex (classified as an "urgent need") in an affluent neighborhood in Chattanooga, Tennessee; upgrading of a stretch of road in New Bern, N.C., which the mayor stated is used by "hundreds of people who go to and from the country club section every day."

The report also commends those communities whose use of funds reflects a greater degree of social concern. For example, Austin Texas provided family planning clinics for low income neighborhoods and economic counselling for minority businessmen. Even considering some positive programs, however, the report states that "the very mixed achievements of Southern cities have shown that local diversions from the national purpose are not just occasional abuses, but rather form a pattern inherent in the implementation of the Act."

The report concludes that the greatest need is a new process through which low and moderate income persons may have greater influence on local decisions. The report also recommends that a grievance procedure be provided so that complaints of misuse receive an independent review and not be channeled back to the local government.

The survey schedule is included in the appendix of the report and provides an excellent resource for student use as a term project in their own community. Using the survey as a guide, a student in my "Social Problems of Housing" course found in her own town the same pattern of expenditures, with money going for swimming pools and tennis courts for the wealthy; little public involvement, and almost no effort to publicize meetings or hold them at a convenient time.

This book is excellent for use in courses dealing