

Leaders Cite Urgent Needs

Urban Renewal 'A Must'

BY DON RIDER

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"Eighty per cent of the housing units are completely dilapidated, or require more repairs than can be made economically.

Rentals are all the traffic will bear

"I think you will agree we need to do something about it," George Stuart, chairman of the Citizen's Advisory Committee for Community Improvement, told Orlando Jay Cees yesterday

Stuart, Orlando's Planning Director Franklin Albert and Urban Renewal Administrator H. L. Minich Jr., gave the luncheon gathering of the junior chamber a thumbnail lesson in Orlando's plan.

STUART EXPLAINED that there are 825 acres involved in the area from city hall to Orange Blossom Trail, Gore to Amelia that is under study as a general neighborhood plan.

"More than 75 per cent of the Negro population of Orlando lives within this area. This project needs to be done regardless of who lives

Teachers Seek

there, and not just because of the current racial situation

"It required 25 to 30 years for the area to get into the condition it's in today and it may take 10 years to complete the renewal program. If we take it to a vote next summer and it passes, it will still be three to six months before dirt flies (work starts)"

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Jury Indicts Four As Russian Spies

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Dispatch To The Sentinel

NEW YORK — A federal grand jury in Brooklyn yesterday indicted four persons, including a Soviet United Nations official and his wife, on charges of conspiring to send military information to the Soviet Union.

The four, who are accused of a six-year conspiracy to transmit information about rocket launching sites, nuclear weapons shipments and other military data, face death if found guilty and given the maximum penalty.

The indictment charged that the two couples, who were arrested in dramatic raids on their apart

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City's Urban Renewal Need Called Urgent

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Stuart said that "83.5 per cent of the people who live there rent and only 16.5 per cent own their own homes."

"More than 50 per cent of residential units are dilapidated beyond repair and more than 30 per cent require major repairs equal to the value of the property.

"Rentals are all the traffic will bear," Stuart disclosed.

He continued, "Urban renewal is simply a government name for a program started in 1892. Taft (the late Sen. Robert A. Taft) is the man who really put it on the books.

"It is not socialism. It is one of the most conservative things there is.

"OUR CITY SIMPLY grew up and we have to get our planning up to date. We have unpaved streets and no drainage, unfit places for living. We've got to get rid of outdoor johnnies.

"We have to upgrade our schools. Callahan has 752 students on 17 acres for school and grounds when we need a minimum of 14 acres.

"Holden has 1,326 students and seven acres.

"Planners say we need 42 acres for schools in the area."

About the economics of the area, Stuart said "There are 260 Negro families with total gross income of less than \$1,000 per year who cannot afford \$20 per month rent.

"There are another 610 families with less than \$2,000 income annually. That means 870 families need housing and cannot afford \$35 per month rent."

ALBERT INFORMED that the city took the first step toward urban renewal in 1958 by developing a workable program. Orlando-Winter Park Board of Realtors, Mid Florida Association of Home Builders and Central Florida Mortgage Bankers Association asked council to get a workable program to qualify for favorable mortgages for people displaced by the Express way.

The workable program was followed by a special legislative act to permit urban renewal and then an application for federal planning funds.



Stuart

Albert

The plan was devised by "one of the best firms in this part of the country," Eric Hill & Associates of Atlanta.

Albert stressed that the administration of urban renewal will be in the hands of a group of local citizens, headed by Harry Hughes, chairman.

When the question of federal interference was raised, Minnich said, "I am firmly convinced that urban renewal with federal aid is the only way it (community improvement) can be done.

"We accept federal aid for highways, schools and hospitals, so why not for community improvement?"

In answer to another question, Stuart said that urban renewal can be handled without federal aid.

"WHEN YOU SAY you are against urban renewal, what are you against? Schools? Paved streets? Parks? Or what?" Stuart asked.

Federal aid is only to the city or to the school board for streets and sewers and parks and schools. They pay two-thirds and we pay one-third.

I think there is a general misunderstanding that the city and federal government take the property and keep it. Property will be purchased in negotiations and the owners will be properly reimbursed."

He explained that the land is sold back to individuals or developers who agree to build according to the plan of redevelopment.

"I foresee that we will have more individual owners. In other projects of this type a large number of people get to be home owners for almost the same payments at their rents were before."

Jayce President Robert Crandall pointed out that community development is the Jaycee's No. 1 project.