

895 N. Kentucky Street
Arlington, Virginia
March 18, 1956

Mr. Albert M. Cole
Housing Administrator

Dear Mr. Cole:

You should be highly commended for your intelligent views of the housing need, and for trying to see the homemakers views on the housing situation, and for advocating an "American Congress of Housewives."

For years I have advocated that homes should be designed by women, or at least have architects, who are usually men, try to design homes from a woman's point of view in regards to decorating, easy care and upkeep. But the most important thing to consider is how a mother and homemaker can maintain supervised play of small children, who are forever getting into mischief, and at the same time accomplish her daily chores.

For the past fifteen years, since my present teen-agers were little, I have made a study of the way I would have planned our present home if I had been more experienced in what the needs of my family were as they grew up. It has been an avid research of mine, in studying floor plans, visiting model homes (which are never really ones), at every opportunity I could get.

After all these years of study and working with a plan on paper and constantly changing for the better, now, we, my husband and I, have decided to build what we think is a compact home that fills all our needs, yet it is not too large with wasted space. It will be an investment for the next thirty or forty years of happiness. We have two teen-agers, a boy and a girl. We also have two little ones, a boy and a girl, who we hope will have a happier life in the new home because it is planned for them to grow up in and yet at the same time meet the needs of the rest of the family.

It is nice to know that there are men who are looking forward far enough ahead to try to make the average mother's life happier with her children and family by having homes improved. The attitude of a mother and homemaker, if she is not overworked or harrassed by inconveniences in her housekeeping, which is caused, nine times out of ten by poorly planned homes, is reflected in the attitude and happiness of her whole family which helps for a better way of life for all.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. John H. VornDick

APR 26 1956

Housing and Home Finance Agency
Office of the Administrator
LIBRARY

4503 Saunders Avenue
Nashville 7, Tennessee
March 16, 1956

Dear Sir:

I am listing below the things I think every American home should have:

Besides the essential bedrooms, bath, kitchen, living and dining rooms---

A laundry room (preferably in basement so as to have cement flooring to take care of vibration of automatic washers and driers. A room on first floor would do if floor was concrete.)

A broom, or utility, closet in hall or kitchen. (For some reason, contractors here don't think they are necessary! At least they don't put them in). We have no place to store our home cleaning equipment. This applies to homes averaging \$15,000.

Sliding doors on all closets (except small ones) and kitchen cabinets. This would conserve space and eliminate sagging doors on built in cabinets.

Above are essential additions, below are some dream home ideas:

Folding doors between rooms.

Garbage disposal units.

Built-in air conditioning.

Laundry chute.

Automatic dishwasher or some sort of dishwasher attachment to top of sink.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. J. D. Vaudrey

MRS. ROBERT E. OWEN
555 Acorn Drive
Dayton 9, Ohio

March 22, 1956

Gentlemen:

I am exceedingly interested in and concerned about the housing situation... of today and the future, not only as it affects my family, but my relatives, friends and neighbors as well.

Being a housewife in my mid-thirties and mother of three children under six years of age, I cannot allow myself much time to think about a "dream home", much less solve the problems of the housing industry today. We already own and are well situated in a modest one and one-half story brick bungalow in a good neighborhood with excellent schools. We therefore have two of the most desirable and important advantages of home ownership, I believe; the neighborhood and the schools. However, from a practical standpoint, there are other things which we desire in a home and do not have, simply because they are the things we could not afford to incorporate in a house when we built ours six years ago.

Our home was originally five rooms; living room, dinette, kitchen, two bedrooms and a bath. We recently finished our second floor into a large bedroom, sewing area, half a bath, cedar closet and storage space. With three children we are using every square inch of space in the house, including the basement. Our most important need, now, is for increased meal-time area and kitchen space. We cannot expand our home any further due to lot restrictions, and our desire for a porch is an impossibility because the floor plan disallows it. With our children approaching the age when they would most enjoy a recreation room, we feel it would be an unwise investment for a house of this size and value.

What, then, should we do about our housing problem, which is undoubtedly like many young home-owners, nationwide. We feel, naturally, that we are fortunate to have a home, at all, and a desirable neighborhood in which to live. Our house is well-built, requires only average maintenance, and is attractive—but still we need additional room. Should we give up good location for a home farther out from stores, transportation, schools, etc., where the cost of homes is even higher (and the living standards) than those in our present area; or should we wait and hope to find a good buy in our present area; or should we just be satisfied to make the best of the situation with the room that we now have.

These are my thoughts—and my problems, and next to my family, itself, my most important concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to write to you.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Robert E. Owen

1102 N. Van Buren St.,
Allentown, Penna.

March 19, 1956

Mr. Albert Cole
Housing and Home Finance Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The housing problems facing the average American family today are very similar to ours. When we married, we purchased a new six-room house under the liberal terms of the G.I. Mortgage plan. This house, a single, built on a 50 x 150 foot lot, contained living room, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms and bath with a full basement.

Nine years and four children, our dream house has taken on some of the aspects of a nightmare. We have friendly neighbors, good schools and a fine local government but no space. No bedroom space, no storage space, no play space, no extra bathroom space!

Our problem is this: Do we buy another home which means we must sacrifice our newer home for an older one in a less desirable neighborhood or do we build on to the present house. A new home in a neighborhood comparable to ours with even four bedrooms and an additional bath or half-bath is out of the picture because of the cost.

Help us plan not only for now but the future. Plan houses that in fifteen years will not be too big when the children are grown and still be adequate for today's needs.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James J. Duffy

67-53 212 Street
Bayside 64, N. Y.
March 21, 1956

Dear Mr. Cole:

My pet dream, and that of every woman I know, is a large kitchen. We want kitchens we can eat in, with our families, kitchens the children can comfortably play or work in while their mother goes about her business. The kitchen is the focal point of the house for all its members. It should be large, light, airy and centrally located. The kitchen in the front of the house is wonderful. The homemaker can watch the children and answer the front door with a minimum of wasted time and energy.

A kitchen that cannot seat its family for meals involves eating piecemeal (not very family-like) or eating in the dining room, which involves a lot more effort. I think a kitchen sells a house for a homemaker, more than any other single factor. She will do a lot of compromising, and put up with a lot of disadvantages in the house, for a good kitchen. A good kitchen can be a joy to work in, and can color her attitude toward her daily living in the house.

I realize it's almost unheard of nowadays, but I, and every woman I know, would love a dining room. I don't mean that added 8 or 9 feet tacked on to the living room and called a dining room. I mean a decent sized room that can be furnished with more than an extension table. However, if I must choose, I would prefer the large kitchen, and settle for that dining area in the living room.

A center hall or foyer entrance is a must. Everyone who has owned a house where the living room is the foyer and hall knows this, too. A center hall entrance keeps the house cleaner and directs traffic more efficiently. There certainly should be some way of getting to the kitchen or the bedrooms without having to cross through another room to do it.

Sincerely yours,

Estelle Borker

13 Summit Avenue
Baldwin, New York
March 17, 1956

Dear Mr. Cole:

There are two main points which I want to make. I am trying to organize this to save your time, and I have outlined the thing just like my senior with a term paper.

The first is that while style is relatively unimportant (a good home could be colonial, or modern, or arty, or early Coolidge or late General Grant equally well) SPACE is extremely important. It is a sad fallacy that a tiny house is easier to care for than a medium sized one. Somebody said to himself, "Obviously it takes less time and effort to sweep a 10 x 10 room than a 10 x 20 room," and so in the name of efficiency he began to promote tiny living quarters. Alas, it is not that simple. If you have all the things needed in the 10 x 20 room crowded into the 10 x 10 room, cleaning it is a nightmare. By the time you have taken the books off the sewing machine and moved the bureau so you can move out the bed and moved the chair so you can open the closet door and put the table in the next room so you can reach the bookcases and parked the tricycles in the front hall and a few other little things like that, you would have saved time and effort to have had a bigger room with every thing allotted to its right place. It takes a lot of things to raise a family, unless you want your children home just to eat and sleep. Some of the new little houses are evidently assuming exactly this, and resemble nothing so much as a pleasant motel. I feel that family life involves a bit more than that.

So, space is the first requirement: space for all the things a growing family will use. Space in the bedrooms for hobbies, and in the living room for books and music, and in the kitchen space for a little girl to help her mother and learn how to cook. Also, storage space for an incredible number of things that are used only periodically. If living space is my first subpoint, then storage space is my second. A home should have a full basement, or a full attic, and preferably both of these. No closet in the world will hold the bathinette and auto bed between babies, the Christmas decorations between Decembers, the extra paint that matches the front hall woodwork, the dollhouse that big sister has outgrown and little sister is not yet ready for, father's fishing or hunting or carpentry equipment, mother's ceramic stuff or quilt pieces, the guitar that Junior started on with such high hopes and that little Joe may tackle someday, the old National Geographics that the children use for school projects, Rover's bed and bowls (someday we will stop grieving and have another dog) the picnic and camping outfits, and the skis, toboggan, fin shoes, underwater goggles, tennis racquets, baseball bats, doll carriages and model airplanes that creep in insidiously upon a family. Not junk: good equipment that is not used daily. And if a family plays together a lot, and does many exciting things for itself instead of staring at television all day, it will find itself storing the darndest things - a puppet stage with its scenery, between shows; or fifteen square feet of mounted butterfly displays; or circus costumes, including a papier mache elephant's head; hamster cages; 117 auto-graphed movie stars' photos; well, maybe you are a father yourself and know all

-more-

about this. If you don't have storage space, what do you do with the elephant's head until next summer's backyard circus, I would like to ask?

Here's where the intangibles come in. If we build millions of motel-type homes we cannot expect families to indulge in any of the activities that are sort of hinted at in the paragraph above. It would be a physical impossibility for them. The motel home demands that (a) children be thrown out on the street as much as possible, and (b) that they be kept immobile in front of television while they are indoors. I do not think that this kind of home life pays off very well in the long run.

One more point on space and I am done with that. It is quite important that some of this space can be closed off for privacy. Some parts of the house can be open and airy and ultra-modern, but there must be some withdrawing possible. Every single member of a family needs some time to be alone - to read, to work on a surprise for the others, to practise new makeup techniques, to try out daddy's old bar bell, or just to day dream. In a little house with no solid partitions and with tiers of bunks in the bedrooms for several children, there is just one place a person can go and be alone. That is the bathroom. I hardly need point out that this leads to complications.

I do not feel that it matters too much whether a house has a definite dining room or a dining end of the living room. I decline to argue about porches. Families can settle those things for themselves, according to their patterns. I do want to enter a plea for a big kitchen, however. I have seen tiny, efficient kitchens that must be a joy for a single woman, but these do not belong in a family's house. In the first place families like to be in the kitchen a lot, and you might as well allow room for them all. In the second place, it is hard for a mother to teach her children to cook if there is really only room for her to work there. Her temptation is to say, "Oh, get out from underfoot! I'll do it myself!" I am grateful for a big kitchen with enough table and counter space so that my two daughters and I can all cook at once without any traffic accidents. We all have fun at it.

My very last plea is for utilization of every inch in a house. If there are sloping ceilings upstairs, bureaus can be recessed into the walls and so can bookcases, thus giving added storage without taking up floor space.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. William Prescott White

Delegates, questionnaires

APR 26 1956

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Mrs. Hugh C. Garver, Jr., 1318 Granger Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Mrs. William J. Callaghan, 835 Collingwood Drive, East Lansing, Michigan
Mrs. Marietta Rathbun, 19366 Edinborough Road, Detroit, Michigan
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Mrs. William E. Butler, 2422 11th Avenue East, Hibbing, Minnesota
Mrs. William R. Sharkey, 727 Belgrade Avenue, North Mankato, Minnesota
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Mrs. T. W. Kirksey, 2216 Ansborough, Waterloo, Iowa
Mrs. R. L. Patnaude, 417 $\frac{1}{2}$ Myrtle Street, Sioux City, Iowa
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Mrs. Evelyn Walworth, 11739 South Vultee Avenue, Downey, California

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Mrs. R. H. Bell, 503 North 172nd Street, Seattle, Washington

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APR 26 1956

Housing and Home Finance Agency
Office of the Administrator
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REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING WOMEN'S CONGRESS ON HOUSING

Please complete the attached information forms (2) and return to the
Moderator at your assigned table at your earliest convenience.

FADS, LUXURIES AND RIGHT DIRECTIONS

Are the following considered steps in the right direction, desirable luxuries, or eye-appeal fads:

	<u>Right Direc- tion</u>	<u>Desira- ble Luxury</u>	<u>Fad</u>
1. Split and tri-level houses	---	---	---
2. Bringing "outdoors indoors"	---	---	---
3. Picture windows	---	---	---
4. Exterior walls of fixed glass	---	---	---
5. All window sills in a room four to five feet from floor	---	---	---
6. Open planning for kitchen-dining-living areas	---	---	---
7. Inside kitchens located for central control	---	---	---
8. Kitchen snack bars and stools	---	---	---
9. Split cooking equipment:			
a. Wall type oven	---	---	---
b. Separate burners:			
(1) Fixed in counter	---	---	---
(2) Fold into wall	---	---	---
10. Built-in refrigerators	---	---	---
11. Barbecues:			
a. Inside	---	---	---
b. Outside	---	---	---
12. Inside bathroom	---	---	---
13. Bathroom fixtures in separate compartments	---	---	---
14. High sloping or "so-called cathedral" ceilings	---	---	---
15. Open beam and roof board ceilings	---	---	---
16. Wall-to-wall carpeting	---	---	---

PET PEEVES

and

DEAR DESIRES

List below your "Pet Peeves."

List below your "Dear Desires."

APR 26 1956

HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY

Housing and Home Finance Agency
Office of the Administrator
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Women's Congress on Housing

April 23-25, 1956

In order to give us a better picture of the group of housewives we have meeting with us, we would like each of you to check the answers to a few brief questions about your living arrangements, and your family. Except for writing the name of your home state, there is nothing to write. Just *check* the appropriate boxes. Everything you put down will be held in confidence. DO NOT SIGN YOUR NAME.

A. WHAT STATE DO YOU COME FROM? _____

B. IN WHAT SORT OF A COMMUNITY DO YOU LIVE?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> large city (over 500,000) | <input type="checkbox"/> suburbs of a medium sized city |
| <input type="checkbox"/> suburbs of a large city | <input type="checkbox"/> small city or in the suburbs of a small city (less than 50,000) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> medium sized city (50,000 to 500,000) | <input type="checkbox"/> open country |

C. IN WHAT KIND OF A DWELLING DO YOU LIVE?

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> single family unit | <input type="checkbox"/> apartment | <input type="checkbox"/> duplex or two family house |
|---|------------------------------------|---|

D. WHAT ARE THE SALIENT CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUR PRESENT DWELLING?

- | | |
|--|--|
| a. No. of stories | b. No. of rooms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or more | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 or less <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1½ <input type="checkbox"/> split level | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 or more |
| c. Does it have a basement? | d. Does it have a separate dining room? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| e. Does it have a family room? | f. Does it have a garage or carport? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

E. ON WHAT BASIS DO YOU OCCUPY YOUR PRESENT QUARTERS?

- | |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> we own or are buying them |
| <input type="checkbox"/> we rent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> we live with friends or relatives |

F. WHEN DID YOU MOVE INTO YOUR PRESENT QUARTERS?

- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> within the last year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 - 5 years ago |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 - 9 years ago |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 years or more ago |

G. WHEN YOU MOVED INTO YOUR PRESENT QUARTERS ABOUT HOW OLD WERE THEY?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> never been occupied before | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 - 9 years old |
| <input type="checkbox"/> previously occupied but less than 2 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 - 19 years old |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 - 5 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 or more years old |

H. WHY DID YOU MOVE? (If there was more than one reason put numbers in the boxes in order of importance of the reasons)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> newly married | <input type="checkbox"/> to get more room |
| <input type="checkbox"/> job transfer | <input type="checkbox"/> to get out of the city |
| <input type="checkbox"/> to get better schools | <input type="checkbox"/> to get a home of your own |
| <input type="checkbox"/> to get a better neighborhood | <input type="checkbox"/> to get lower housing costs |

I. WHERE DID YOU LIVE BEFORE?

- in an apartment in an owned home
 in a rented house shared with friends or relatives

J. WE WOULD LIKE SOME IDEA ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

a. How many children do you have?

- 1 4
 2 5
 3 6 or more

b. What is their age and sex? (Fill in the number of children on the appropriate lines)

<u>NUMBER OF BOYS</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF GIRLS</u>
_____	Under 3	_____
_____	3 - 5	_____
_____	6 - 9	_____
_____	10 - 16	_____
_____	17 and over	_____

c. Other than your children and your husband, how many other people regularly live with you?

- none 2
 1 3 or more

d. If other people regularly live with you, what is their relationship to you?

- parents friends
 other relatives roomers

e. How much schooling have you and your husband had? (Check one box for each of you which shows the furthest you each went)

<u>WIFE</u>	<u>HUSBAND</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed grade school	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed junior high school	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed senior high school	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Had less than 4 years of college	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed college	<input type="checkbox"/>

f. Is your husband a veteran? Yes No

g. Roughly, what is your family income?

- Less than \$4,000
 \$4,000 - \$4,999
 \$5,000 - \$7,999
 \$8,000 - \$9,999
 \$10,000 or more

h. Roughly, how old are you and your husband?

<u>WIFE</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>HUSBAND</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Under 20	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	20 - 24	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	25 - 34	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	35 - 44	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	45 and over	<input type="checkbox"/>

i. Do you have a job? No Yes - part time Yes - full time

Agenda, working papers.

WOMEN'S CONGRESS ON HOUSING

April 23-25, 1956

-The Background-

Q: What is the purpose of the Women's Congress on Housing?

A: To obtain the views of representative housewives of the nation on the design of the modern home. The present conference is centered on single-family homes for families with children, since they represent the greater part of the housing market demand today.

Q: Who called it?

A: Albert M. Cole, Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, on March 15.

Q: What is the interest of the HHFA in the views of housewives?

A: To obtain a fully rounded picture of currents of opinion and developments in the housing field in the light of changing living patterns. As Mr. Cole said on March 15: "New homes must be fitted more and more into the new patterns of living. Every new house that does not take these new patterns into account will be obsolete long before it is old or even middle aged—a dubious investment alike for builder, buyer and banker. The Federal Government which insures or guarantees millions of dollars or mortgage loans must do everything in its power to safeguard this huge investment...."

Q: What are the responsibilities of HHFA in this field?

A: HHFA is the overall coordinating housing agency for most of the Government's programs to advance homebuilding, housing standards, and the improvement and renewal of urban neighborhoods and communities. It has several constituent operating agencies, one of which is the Federal Housing Administration (FHA).

Q: What are the responsibilities of FHA?

A: Principally facilitating home buying by insuring home mortgages. In the course of two decades FHA has handled \$40 billions of business. FHA is self supporting.

Q: Is FHA also concerned with the Congress?

A: Yes, it has a special interest in the discussions of this Congress. Because FHA insures home mortgages for as long a term as 30 years it must consider all factors involved to guard against premature obsolescence which might endanger its investment. It must consider questions of site, type and standards of construction, appearance, architecture, layout, relationship to the neighborhood and so on; it must keep apprised of new building techniques, inventions, new materials, anything which may tend to affect the housing market in the future.

Q: Have other groups been called on for consultation by the housing agencies aside from the housewives?

A: They have been and are being continually invited to Washington by the housing agencies--architects, builders, contractors, industry groups, planners, experts of many kinds.

Q: What is it expected that the housewife can contribute?

A: The housewife is at the center of changing living patterns. As the ultimate consumer she is actually the target of all the consultations that are taking place with, and among, experts. Her special contribution and way of looking at things are necessary to complete the picture.

#

HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCYWOMEN'S CONGRESS ON HOUSINGObjectives, Purpose, Subject Areas and ProceduresOBJECTIVES

1. To obtain from representative homemakers a consensus on the Basic Components of a house, the sizes and arrangements for satisfactory living of growing families in the middle income bracket for the full span of the life of the family.

Different requirements related to regional customs, climate and a range of incomes are desired.

2. The reasons "why" certain spaces are required to be arranged in specific ways from the "operator-of-the home's" point of view is particularly desirable.

PURPOSE

It is proposed to make the information obtained available to the building industry and Government Agencies for guidance in further activities related to housing improvement. It is expected that this information will have definite value in considerations of minimum property requirements of the Federal Housing Administration and other operations of HHFA Units and Divisions.

ORGANIZATION OF SUBJECT AREAS

The subjects for discussion are organized into four broad categories as follows:

- I Interior Planning
- II Exterior Appearance
- III Lot Requirements
- IV Neighborhood and Community

I - Interior Planning

Since major interest was expressed in Interior Planning, we have allotted the full first day to it. We have further broken Interior Planning down into five sub-heads:

- A: Basic Components; including space and homemaking appliances.
- B: Minimum and Desirable Sizes
- C: Location and Relation of Basic Components
- D: Connections and Divisions between Spaces
- E: Significant Details

TIME - Sub-heads "A" and "B" have been assigned for Monday morning discussion, and "C" - "D" - and "E" for Monday afternoon.

II - Exterior Appearance

This has been broken down into four sub-heads:

- A: Windows
- B: Types of Houses
- C: Exterior Treatment
- D: Roof Types

ORGANIZATION OF SUBJECT AREAS - continued

II - Exterior Appearance - continued

TIME - The time assigned is part of Tuesday morning, from 9:00 A.M. to 10:15 A.M.

III - Lot Requirements

This has been broken down into two sub-heads:

A: Lot Sizes and Shapes

B: Lot Usage

TIME - The time assigned is Tuesday morning, from 10:15 A.M. to 12:00 Noon.

IV - Neighborhood and Community Planning

This has been broken down into two sub-heads:

A: Street Layout

B: Facilities

TIME - The time assigned is Tuesday afternoon, from 2:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

CEUDRE

In order to attain our objectives, the working sessions have been organized to follow a logical sequence which, it is believed, will produce the knowledge we seek in a form that can be used.

The first thing we want to know is what, in the judgment of the representatives at the various tables, are the basic components of a house for a growing family in the lower third of the middle income bracket, in terms of Living Spaces and mechanical homemaking Equipment. It is difficult to state precise dollar amounts for this group. But the bulk of the letters, where price of house was mentioned ranged between \$10,000 and \$20,000. It is significant too that many writers appear to follow a long recognized rule-of-thumb that the cost of their house should not exceed $2\frac{1}{2}$ times income.

Therefore, we should like to strive for a house in the \$10,000 range. It is recognized that such a price is an absurdity in many of the large metropolitan areas of the country. However, it is recognized that in higher cost areas, incomes, in general, are also relatively higher. The point that we want to make is that we want to strive for the basic essentials. Later in the discussions an opportunity will be given to add amenities for greater comfort and convenience at higher incomes.

In addition to knowing about the basic components we want to know "why" certain choices were made. The needs to be fulfilled that lie behind the selections. The knowledge and experience that guide women's judgments.

I INTERIOR PLANNING - Monday Morning Session

A BASIC COMPONENTS

We start with the kitchen and move the discussions along through various combinations of Family Rooms, Laundry Spaces, Dining Areas, Quiet Parlors and Living Rooms for Active use to Bedrooms, Baths, Storage Areas, Garages and Carports. It is desired that the groups at various tables will agree on varying combinations of Basic Spaces.

Homemaking Equipment: The next step is to discuss and make selections of equipment which are essential, numbering the items in order of priority in which they should be acquired. Then indicate those items for which space should be provided for later acquisition.

B MINIMUM AND DESIRABLE SIZES

After the Basic Components of Space and Equipment have been determined it will be necessary to learn what areas will be required. This can be done by assigning minimum sizes to the various selected spaces. Since we are striving for a home that the lower segment of the middle income group can acquire, discussions should be directed toward the use of space, the activities and furniture to be accommodated in order that agreement can be reached on minimum areas.

The second step is to seek agreement on Desirable Areas. Sizes here should be set at a level that will agree with the upper range of the middle income bracket. Luxury and Dream House class should be avoided.

The determinations of components and sizes should be completed in the morning session.

Between the morning and afternoon sessions, a tabulation of minimum and desirable areas will be made and a cost factor applied to areas and equipment to estimate the total cost of the combinations selected.

If costs are far out of line, adjustments in sizes and equipment should be agreed to.

If no adjustments are necessary, discussions will proceed immediately to Item C.

C LOCATION OF BASIC COMPONENTS - Monday Afternoon Session

Having determined the Basic Space and Equipment Components, we next want to find out how these should be assembled in relation to each other for efficiency and convenience for all the many actions and activities that must be performed daily and periodically during the life cycle of a family.

I INTERIOR PLANNING - Monday Afternoon SessionC LOCATION OF BASIC COMPONENTS - continued

Inevitably this will involve not only considerations of space assembly on one level, but on several levels. Local customs, climate and factors of economy may control here.

We must consider requirements for sound and noise control. How rooms can be grouped in separate zones. Spaces for quiet activities, relaxing, studying, etc., in one zone, and noisy and probably dirt-making activities in another.

We must consider needs for individual and group privacy, and for family and guest get-togethers.

We want to know the "why" for placing the Kitchen and Family Room, for example, facing the rear yard.

We want to know "why" there should be certain means of access into the house and the relationship of interiors to out-of-doors.

D CONNECTIONS AND DIVISIONS BETWEEN SPACESSpaces

After we have grouped the Basic Components in a convenient, workable relationship, we will want to know which spaces should be separated for privacy or other reasons, and which should open one-into-the-other for flexibility. Where should sound deadening barriers in the forms of partitions, closets or other devices be provided. Where should less than ceiling height partitions, counter cupboards, cabinets, large square-headed or arched openings be provided.

We want to know the reasons for such decisions; what are the family requirements that make such arrangements necessary or desirable. We want to know the "why."

E SIGNIFICANT DETAILS

First we will want to know about ceiling heights in various rooms and various kinds of ceilings.

Then, if the arrangement of the Kitchen has not been previously discussed, we will want to know about convenient arrangement of work areas. Is a "U" - "L" or corridor type considered to best meet requirements. What should the width be across a "U" shaped kitchen. Heights and widths of upper cabinet shelving and of lower work counter cupboards should be analyzed and determinations made.

It is impossible, of course, to anticipate all of the items that may be desirable to discuss. We have tried to list those that seem to be of greatest interest based on letters received. We have also included some

I INTERIOR PLANNING - Monday Afternoon Session

E SIGNIFICANT DETAILS - continued

which are of special interest to the Housing Agency, such as Interior Kitchens and Baths. Also included is a section on Electrical Wiring and Outlets, and on Mechanical Ventilation and Air Conditioning.

Again it is important to learn the "why" women want specific items arranged in certain ways.

* * * * *

II EXTERIOR APPEARANCE - Tuesday Morning Session

Having made determinations as to the sizes of spaces, their arrangement and ceiling heights, we have set in broad terms the shape and mass of the house. We now want to know what the finished house should look like from the Exterior. We will begin with Windows, since they form a convenient transition between indoors and outdoors.

A WINDOWS

These, of course, will have to be considered in relation to the Interior. How much light is wanted? What natural ventilation? What space for furniture arrangement? What about heating and cooling the house mechanically? Curtains, draperies, etc.? Considerations of privacy, outlook and views must be considered.

B NUMBER OF STORIES

Next we will want to firm up any unresolved matters with regard to the number of stories. Could basic requirements be met in several ways by reassigning space components to various levels? If so, we should like to know which is the preferred arrangement and which acceptable if costs and economy dictate other than the desirable solution.

C ROOFS

The roof greatly influences the appearance of a house. We will want to know about preferred and acceptable types.

III LOT REQUIREMENTS - Tuesday Morning Session

Having arrived at conclusions about the house proper and some of its relationships to the lot, we must know something about the lot and its functions.

A LOT SIZES AND SHAPES

How large should the lot be? This is dependent upon the requirements for privacy from Street Traffic and Neighbors and upon the activities the lot is to serve. How large an area can a family maintain? We want to know not only the lot area but also the shape of the lot; shall it be wide and of shallow depth, or narrow and deep.

We want to know what the requirements are for privacy and how they can be attained with economy.

B LOT USAGE

We next need to know how families use yards. What spaces must be provided and how large should they be for play areas, gardening, outdoor dining and relaxing in Shaded Areas. We need to know about trees and lawns and other planting.

NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

Finally, we want to know about requirements of the neighborhood beyond the house and lot.

A STREET LAYOUT

What are the needs that determine desirable street patterns. Safety, freedom from excessive speeds, heavy traffic and noise? How can these requirements be met in street layouts. What are the needs with regard to sidewalks? Shade trees along streets?

B FACILITIES

What are the requirements of families with regard to schools, shopping facilities, churches, recreation, etc. How far should these be from the home at a maximum? How can they be planned within a residential neighborhood and not sacrifice safety and a quiet atmosphere?

DIVISION OF WORKING RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities for obtaining the information and recording it in usable form is assigned to three persons at each table.

1- MODERATOR

The Moderator has overall responsibility for chairmanship of the discussions. She will determine within the general time limits the amount of discussion that can be permitted on individual items. She should keep the discussions moving forward on the listed subjects, as much as possible. However, significant items not listed should be recognized and full freedom given for discussions.

She should strive to elicit the "why's" for any choices or preferences or conclusions. She should strive for a consensus, or a majority opinion.

She will be assisted by an Architectural Adviser and a Recording Secretary.

The Architectural Adviser may be called upon for any assistance on technical or cost matters which may arise.

Other Assists: An outline index of the organized subject matter should assist in the orderly sequence of discussions. This has been supplemented by a Prompt Sheet which indicates the general thinking of the women as revealed from letters received. It is provided for the Moderators so that they may familiarize themselves with the overall subject. It need not be used at the meetings but should be carefully read prior to the meetings.

2- ARCHITECTURAL ADVISER

The Architectural Adviser will be responsible for recording conclusions on significant requirements and for keeping the group informed on the general trend in total costs of their selections. He should call the Moderator's attention to any items which have been left inconclusive and could be cleared by further discussion.

He will be responsible for tabulating the sum of the minimum and desirable space areas and arriving at a total estimated cost during the Monday recess period. These results should be reported at the start of the Monday Afternoon Session so that needed adjustments may be made.

At the end of the Monday Afternoon Session, and the sessions on Tuesday, the Advisers at the various tables will meet together to draw significant overall conclusions.

Other Assists: The Architectural Advisers will be furnished with a check list on which significant data may be recorded.

DIVISION OF WORKING RESPONSIBILITIES
(continued)

3- RECORDING SECRETARY

It will be the major responsibility of the Recording Secretaries to record the "why's" of the choices, selections and recommendations. For example, it was the consensus that the kitchen should be in the back yard because it is necessary for Mother to supervise children's play in the safety of the back yard.

These reasons may be very subtly expressed at times and the secretaries should be alert to many "why's" on the same subject item. An arrangement may be desirable or undesirable not only in terms of safety, but also because of comfort, convenience and the fulfillment of some deep psychological or social need.

In a large measure the success of the Congress will be reflected in the degree to which these reasons - these "why's" can be captured. It is the unique quality of the Congress.

The secretaries should transcribe their notes as soon as possible after each session in order that they may be available for cross-reference with the architects' check lists for the drawing of preliminary conclusions required for the Wednesday Morning Session.

The management of Meridian Hill Hotel wishes to invite the delegates of the Women's Congress on Housing to a coffee and dessert hour, Monday night, 7:30 PM, April 23, in the Park Room at the Hotel.

HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY
Office of the Administrator
Washington, D. C.

Schedule for the Women's Congress on Housing
Hall of Nations, Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Monday, April 23

- 9:00 a.m. Invocation
Introduction by Frank J. Meistrell, Deputy Administrator, HHFA
Welcoming Address, Albert M. Cole, Administrator, HHFA
Greetings, Miss Annabelle Heath, Assistant Administrator, HHFA
Chairman of the Conference
- 9:30 Recess for assembly of discussion groups
- 10:00 Topic of Group Discussions: Interior Planning
- 12:00 noon Recess for luncheon
- 2:00 p.m. Topic of Group Discussions: Interior Planning
- 4:00 General session, summaries by discussion leaders
- 4:30 Adjournment

Tuesday, April 24

- 9:00 a.m. Topic of Group Discussions: Exterior design and lot requirements
- 11:30 Recess
- 12:10 Personal greetings from Mrs. Eisenhower at the White House, followed by luncheon recess
- 2:30 p.m. Topic of Group Discussions: Neighborhood and Community Planning
- 4:15 General session, summaries by discussion leaders
- 4:45 Adjournment
- 6:00 Tour of National Housing Center and reception

Wednesday, April 25

- 10:00 a.m. Final general session
- 12:30 p.m. Final adjournment for luncheon

HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY

WOMEN'S CONGRESS ON HOUSING

Agenda for Working Sessions

MONDAY - April 23

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon

I INTERIOR PLANNING

A Basic Components

Selection of Basic Components and mechanical homemaking aids essential for a growing family of middle income groups during the full span of family life, with full regard to flexibility, expansibility and economy in relation to family incomes.

B Sizes of Space Components

Minimum and desirable sizes of space components for cooking, eating, sleeping, sanitation and personal grooming, laundering, entertaining, relaxing, hobbies, cultural activities, etc., and for essential equipment provided, or to be acquired, including considerations of multiple use of space and adequate planned storage.

2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

I INTERIOR PLANNING (continued)

C Location and Relation of Basic Components

1. Location of Basic Components in relation to street and access, rear and side yards, for convenience to outdoors and for privacy and in relation to sun's light, summer-heat and winter-warmth, rain, cooling breezes and winter's winds.
2. Organization of space components in relation to each other for convenience, privacy, noise control and for freedom for each member of the family to pursue individual and group activities with pleasure and without undue discomfort to others, with full regard to family needs during its life cycle.

D Connections and Divisions Between Spaces

Access to and separation of various spaces for convenience, comfort, flexibility of use, privacy, quiet relaxation and noisy activities.

E Significant Details

1. Ceiling heights.
2. Cupboards and cabinets.
3. Special room types.
4. Electrical and mechanical.

HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY

WOMEN'S CONGRESS ON HOUSING

Agenda for Working Sessions

TUESDAY - April 24

9:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

II EXTERIOR APPEARANCE

A Windows - Desirable Types

Ventilation, daylight, sunlight, views from windows, comfort, privacy, flexibility of furniture arrangement, indoor-out relationship.

B Window Accessories

C Number of Stories

D Roof Types

E Exterior Treatment, Style, etc.

III LOT REQUIREMENTS

A Sizes

1. Minimum, desirable and maximum lot areas.
2. Minimum, desirable and maximum frontage.
3. Minimum, desirable and maximum depth.
4. Set-backs from street in relation to rear yard areas for safety, play and privacy.
5. Minimum and desirable distances from neighboring houses, front, side and rear.

B Lot Usage

1. Service and delivery access.
2. Play areas.
3. Terraces and outdoor quiet areas.
4. Gardening.
5. Requirements for privacy.
6. Planting
 - a. Trees
 - b. Lawn areas

HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY

WOMEN'S CONGRESS ON HOUSING

TUESDAY - April 24

2:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

IV NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

A Street Layout

1. Newer street patterns
 - a. Curved streets
 - b. Dead-end streets
 - c. Cul-de-sacs.
2. Problems of heavy traffic streets.

B Facilities and Maximum Distances

1. Primary schools.
2. Secondary schools.
3. Shopping.
4. Churches.
5. Recreational facilities.
6. Other.
7. Zoning and other protection.

APR 26 1956

PROMPT SHEET

Monday (A.M.) Session
April 23, 1956

Housing and Home Finance Agency
Office of the Administrator
LIBRARY

I INTERIOR PLANNING

A BASIC COMPONENTS

1 thru 5 Kitchen - Kitchen Family Room - Kitchen-Den

Let's start with the kitchen - since most indicated that it is the most lived lived in and important room in the house. Some referred to it as the heart or core of the house; others stated that it is the focal point of the house for all its members. Still others say it should be the pivotal room in the house - with bedrooms going off in one direction from it, and the dining room and parlor set off in another.

At any rate, there is no disagreement on the essentiality of the kitchen as a basic component of a house for a growing family of middle income, regardless of regional or climatic conditions.

There is also wide agreement that this kitchen component, or spaces intimately associated with it, must provide for a multitude of individual and family activities. Some want a separate working kitchen. Some want a kitchen with dining space; counter or bar and stools; a built in table and benches; space for table and chairs?

Others want a kitchen-laundry combination; or a kitchen-laundry plus dining space. Some have expressed preference for a big family kitchen, where about 40 percent of the area would be devoted to a well-planned food preparation area and the rest would be used for all or some of the following:

- Family and informal guest meals.
- Laundry, ironing and sewing.
- Infant's play space.
- Children's games, hobbies and "messy play."
- Teenager's dancing.
- T. V. viewing.
- Guest's sleeping space.

Some want the food preparation area separated from the other activities area

I INTERIOR PLANNING

A BASIC COMPONENTS

1 thru 5 (continued) (Kitchen - Kitchen Family Room - Kitchen-Den)

by a partition, counter pass-through, dining counter or other devices. One mentioned a collapsible gate to keep small children from under foot in the work area.

Different names have been used - some refer to - "The Big Family Kitchen" - a big functional kitchen - a large combination living-kitchen - the "Keeping Room" - the "Family Room" - the kitchen-den or the den-recreation room.

First then, we should define this kitchen-living area. Would it be better as one large area or two separate adjacent areas. What functions would it be used for? If separate, how should it be separated for greatest convenience, utility, and attractiveness.

NOTE: (a) Discussion. Bring out the "why" for specific preferences, the advantages, disadvantages of open room or separate areas with reference to noise, cooking odors, convenience, etc. Seek a consensus for your table, or a majority-minority expression. The discussion should lead naturally into supplementary facilities such as pantry or a separate laundry-utility room. Some may want the laundry in the basement, or near a bath. Discussion of the use of the family-room may bring up the need for a half-bath adjacent to the kitchen.

(b) Where preference for laundry in basement or in combination with bathroom, hold discussion for later under those specific headings.

Supplemental Spaces That May Come Up During Discussion on Kitchen-Family Room.

6 Pantry

Some expressed desire for old-fashioned pantry? Is it a basic component? Would it be better than upper cabinets and base cabinets? What are advantages and disadvantages? What is the consensus.

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

A BASIC COMPONENTS

7 Laundry Utility Room

Some have expressed a preference for the laundry facilities to be separated from the kitchen or the kitchen family room. Some have mentioned this as a means of confining noises from mechanical equipment -- washers, dryers, freezers, etc. Is a separate laundry utility room essential, desirable, etc. What equipment and activities should be accommodated here? Some mentioned are:

- Automatic washer.
- Automatic dryer.
- Ironer (or space for).
- Ironing board.
- Sewing machine.
- Broom, vacuum, mops, cleaners, polishes, waxes, etc.
- Space for removal and storage of rubbers, galoshes, snow suits, play and work clothes.
- Work bench for father's maintenance jobs.

What is the consensus - or majority opinion?

If a room for laundry is not essential, but would better be done in the kitchen-family room both for convenience and economy, then what about a rear entry for removal of wet and dirty play and work clothes?

8 Rear Entrance

Is a rear entry essential? What should it be like -- a screen porch - enclosed porch not heated - part of the laundry-utility room - a mud room where sports and play equipment might be stored for daily or periodic use?

Some of the things to be considered are the many goings-in-and-out of children from school, play out-of-doors, etc., tracking dirt, sand and snow and rain water into the kitchen or other parts of the house. Some have referred to a "mud room" where sports equipment could be kept, as well as soiled and wet outer clothing. If preference is for a basement, it may be that the

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

A BASIC COMPONENTS

8 (continued) (Rear Entrance)

children's and adults' dirty work entrance should be there. These choices should be discussed and a consensus obtained.

Preference for a rear entrance in a one story house may lead naturally to the need for a half-bath, adjacent to entry and kitchen. In basement houses the half-bath may be preferred there. These choices should be discussed with various advantages and disadvantages brought out and a consensus sought.

9 One-Half Bath at Kitchen Entry

Discuss advantages and disadvantages. Consider use for children from outdoor play. Convenient care of small children needing aid. Use as guest bath, if Family-Room is used for guest sleeping. Bring out the "why." What is consensus?

10 Basements

Basements have been reported as essential in some areas of the country for keeping the house warm. Also, since deep excavations for foundation walls are necessary because of frost action, a basement becomes the cheapest space you can buy. If it was possible, with modern knowledge and materials, to build a basementless house at no greater cost for heating and for space on one floor for all the activities the basement normally accommodates, would it still be essential? What are the disadvantages of a basement? How can they be overcome? Better light with larger windows? Better ventilation? Anything else? Should an outside entrance be required to all basements? "Why" is a basement important and essential.

What functions should be accommodated in the basement? Should various spaces be partitioned? Should spaces be finished or left for later finishing?

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

A BASIC COMPONENTS

10 (continued) (Basements)

What spaces? What is the consensus or majority?

11 Attic

Attics have been reported as essential in certain areas for keeping the house cool. Also they provide the cheapest kind of storage space. If proper storage is provided on one floor and insulation or air coating used to keep the house equally cool, would attics still be essential?

Where should access to attic be located? How should access be gained to attic?

What items could be stored conveniently in the attic?

Are there any disadvantages to attics? How could they be overcome?

What is the consensus or majority?

12 thru 16 Living Room - Dining Room

Separate Dining Room

Is a separate dining room essential - or would formal dining in "L" of living room or at one end of living room be adequate? "Why" is a separate dining room necessary? Occasional family meals to teach children manners for dining in trains, hotels, airplanes, etc., and as guests of other families; Christmas, Thanksgiving and other holidays and anniversary occasions. For special guest entertaining - for children's homework and study. Are there any other multiple uses for a separate dining room?

Advantages and disadvantages. Consensus or majority? Discussion leads naturally into consideration of the living room.

Living Room

What purposes should it serve? Is it essentially needed as a Guilt Room or as an Activity Room. Some have referred to it as a small "old-fashioned"

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

A BASIC COMPONENTS

12 thru 16 (continued) (Living Room - Dining Room)

Living Room - continued

Parlor, always in order for the surprise visit of a guest. They also see it as a quiet room where they can retire from the activities of the children in the Family Room. A place for books and quiet reading and study. A place for music - the piano and other musical instruments and children's music practice - for record players and record storage.

Others see it as an Activity Room, with space for children's play, meetings of PTA, church groups, etc.

Some prefer it for occasional formal dining. Others will accept it for dining where economy is a basic consideration.

What we need to determine is the nature of the living room. What uses will be made of it - what activities it must serve. "Why" is it basic? This inevitably will be influenced by discussions and preferences with regard to the Family Room, Dining Room, etc. It is necessary to keep in mind any decisions or conclusions we may previously have taken relative to them. Discussions of the use of the Living Room naturally lead to the needs for a Front Entrance.

17 thru 18 Front Entrance - Guest Coats

Many object to direct entry into the living room - cold drafts, wet shoes and clothes from rain and snow, mud and sand tracked through the living room and other parts of the house. Desire expressed for some enclosed space, either a foyer or small hall with a guest clothes closet. Others made no mention of this as a problem but were disturbed by the wearing-out of rugs and carpets by traffic patterns in the living room. They wanted a hall separating living room from bedrooms.

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

A BASIC COMPONENTS

17 thru 18 (continued) (Front Entrance - Guest Coats)

Is an entrance Foyer essential? Even if it sacrifices space in the Living Room? Should there be a Guest Coat Closet in it? Should other storage space be provided? What should it be?

There was mention of a telephone space in the entrance Foyer. Others mentioned a "mud room" which, in addition to guest's clothes, would store families' outdoor clothes, golf clubs, tennis rackets, boots, galoshes, etc. What is the need?

Some wanted a "mud room" at front entry for sports equipment, guest's coats, family outer garments. Is this desirable? A luxury with space better used elsewhere? Is it basic? Consensus?

19 thru 20 Den or Guest Room

Some preference has been expressed for a den. Is it a basic component. What functions should it serve? From uses expressed it falls somewhere in between the Living Room, Bedroom and Family Room category. Different from all of them but provided for some of the functions associated with each. It appears to be more in the nature of a Quiet Room than an Activity Room. Some mention it as a den-guest room combination. Some see it as a quiet place to retire for study and quiet pursuit of hobbies. Could guest sleeping be more convenient in a Family-Room, separated from the family bedrooms? With the private use of a half-bath near the kitchen? Could other functions of the Den be distributed among a Family Room, Parlor Type Living Room and Bedrooms? Or, should it be included instead of some of the other rooms, such as Parlor-Living Room, Family Room, etc. Should it be counted as one of the bedrooms? Consensus? Discussion leads naturally to bedrooms and baths.

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

A BASIC COMPONENTS

21 Bedrooms

How many should there be for the life-cycle of a growing family? Enough for flexibility for various combinations of different numbers, sexes and ages of children but not too many for a homemaker to take care of. Or to become a burden after the children are at college or have left the home permanently. How many are essential for flexibility and privacy; for periodic illnesses; for guests, if not accommodated in den or family room? What is consensus or majority?

What other functions should be provided for in bedrooms? Some have expressed the preference for small rooms for sleeping only, putting more space in the Family Room-Kitchen area. Others want the Master Bedroom larger for sewing, and a quiet place to retire from children's activities in the Family-Room. Some recognize that the Family Room is the "Togetherness" Room, but every member of the family must have some place for his very own, no matter how small, a "hide-away" to keep precious possessions, work on a surprise for other family members, ponder secret thoughts or write them down. What purposes should bedrooms serve? Consensus? This discussion should lead logically into bedroom closets and storage.

22 Bedroom Closets

All indications are for the need of a separate closet in each room. Some expressed the need for closets full wall width of room. Differences were expressed on what the closets should be like. Some wanted walk-in closets; others wanted the closets planned with an adjustable clothes hanging pole at one end to be raised as children grow and the rest of the closet fitted with shelves, drawers, etc., for clothing, toys, private collections, hobbies,

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

A BASIC COMPONENTS

22 (continued) (Bedroom Closets)

sports equipment, etc. Some proposed that a hinged tip-down desk be provided. What are the essentials? Bring out the "why's"? It is recognized that much depends upon bedroom use and the provisions of storage in other areas of the house. How much storage should be built in and how much should be provided in bedroom furniture? Where should football, baseball suits and like equipment be kept? In bedroom, basement, utility room? What clothing and other items are most conveniently kept in bedrooms? Should dead storage be provided for blankets, bed-covers, suitcases and similar luggage above the conveniently accessible space in closets? Consensus?

23 Bathrooms

How many bathrooms are essential for various numbers of bedrooms and family members? When does a single bath become inadequate? If fixtures were in separate compartments, would a bath of three fixtures be adequate for a 3 Bedroom house? Would this be better than a bath and a half if a choice were necessary?

Is a shower instead of a tub with shower over it adequate if there is only one bathroom in the house?

What about two or more lavatories in the same bathroom?

What other functions should be provided in bathrooms?

24 Storage Spaces Other than Bedrooms

What other storage facilities are essential for indoor storage?

Particular care must be given to storage in houses without attics or basements.

Some of the items mentioned were:

- a. Bed linens, such as sheets, pillow cases, etc.

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

A BASIC COMPONENTS

24 (continued) (Storage Spaces Other than Bedrooms)

- b. Blankets, bed-covers, etc.
- c. Bath towels, face cloths, etc.
- d. Bathroom supplies: soap, tissues, cotton, etc.
- e. Medicinal supplies.
- f. Off-season clothing.
- g. House cleaning equipment: brooms, vacuum, mops, buckets, etc.
- h. Cleaning supplies: soap powders, polishes, waxes, special cleaners.
- i. Sports equipment: golf, tennis, skis, etc.
- j. Seasonal items, holiday decorations, etc.
- k. Periodic items, bathinette, high-chair, etc.
- l. Books, music, records.
- m. Fine china, glassware, silver, etc.

For what items is storage space within the house essential? How should it be arranged?

Carports and Garage

Wide range of preferences were expressed changing with climatic conditions. Some say garage is useless in heavy snow country. Drive usually blocked and can't get into it anyway. Some want garage for storage, hobbies, child play on wet days. Others will accept carports for similar reasons. Some object to open garage doors facing street showing cluttered interior. Some want space for one car; others for two. Some want storage space attached to garage or carport. Do-it-yourself'ers see the garage or carport finished as rumpus room. What do middle income families use the garage or carport for? Is it basic or would money be better spent for more space in house or equipment? What is consensus or majority opinion? What are reasons for minority opinion?

26 Homemaking Appliances

(Get extra copies of Architect's Check List for this.)

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

B SIZES OF COMPONENTS

Having determined the essential space components of the Basic House, it is necessary to arrive at some idea of what the sizes of those spaces should be for comfort, convenience and economy. How should total space in a house be distributed. More to active or to quiet areas? What percent to each?

What are the minimum sizes of the various space components which will be adequate for all proposed purposes? Remind that we want to try to first get the lowest possible cost house?

Second - if cost was not a limiting objective, what should the desirable sizes of these spaces be, bearing in mind the problems of cleaning, maintenance and weather conditioning, heating and cooling, as well as future usefulness when the children have gone.

Kitchen - Family Room - Pantry - Laundry Utility - Rear Entry -

Dining Room - Living Room - Front Entry - Den - Guest Room -

Bedrooms - Bedroom Closets - Bathrooms - Half-Baths - Storage Spaces

(Off-season items, etc.) Carport and Garage - Outdoor Storage

APR 26 1956

Housing and Home Finance Agency
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PROMPT SHEET

Monday (P.M.) Session
April 23, 1956

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

C GROUPING OF COMPONENTS AND RELATED LOCATIONS

It should have been apparent if the discussion has developed a need for one story houses or for multi-level houses. The discussion should bring out how spaces should be located on one or on several levels. Bring out the reasons for locations - privacy, less dirt, easier.

Having established the basic components and a range of sizes for the essential spaces, it is now necessary to group them together for convenient use. Let's start with the Kitchen. Should it be located on the street side of the house or overlooking the rear yard - or the side yard - or is facing in relation to sun more important? North, south, east or west? What are the determining factors? If a family room is considered essential in conjunction with the Kitchen, this might influence location. To what spaces should it have access without passing through other rooms? Does this mean hallways?

What should the relation of the family room be to the kitchen? This may have been essentially decided during the discussion of the Kitchen-Family Room as a space component? Should it face street, rear or side yard? Is sun more important; north, south, east, west?

Where should the pantry be?

Where should the Laundry utility room be located in relation to the Kitchen? The rear entry if it is separate as a porch, etc.?

Location of half-bath to Rear Entry, Laundry, Kitchen, if one is deemed necessary?

Where should the Dining Room be located in relation to Kitchen-Living Room, Street, sunrise and sunset?

Where should the Living Room-Parlor, etc. be located in relation to Dining, Entry Hall, Bedrooms, street, rear or side yards?

What should be the means of access between kitchen and bedrooms? Kitchen and Front Door?

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

C GROUPING OF COMPONENTS AND RELATED LOCATIONS (continued)

Is the Living Room essentially a quiet room or an activity room - should it be in a quiet area with Bedrooms - or in an activity area with Kitchen Family Room? What should be the means of access between Living Room and Bedrooms?

Where should the Bedrooms be located with relation to street, rear yard, etc. If a choice has to be made would it be better to have the Master Bedroom or the children's room facing the street?

Where should the Bath be located in relation to Living Room, Kitchen, Bedrooms? Would this location be preferred if the Laundry was made a part of the Bath?

Storage

Where should the Bedroom closets and other storage spaces or closets be located? Should linen storage be in the bathroom, or in corridor or hall adjacent to bath? Would access from both hall and bath be desirable, if possible? What about off-season clothing - in garment bags in bedroom closets? In separate closet? In attic? What about periodic equipment - baby carriage, high-chair, Christmas ornaments, things next child could use? Where should this storage be?

Bicycles, wheel toys, etc.
Garden tools and furniture.
Screens and storm sash - where should storage be located?

D CONNECTIONS AND DIVISIONS BETWEEN SPACES

What we are discussing here are partitions, doors, space dividers, openings between spaces, etc.

Stimulate discussion on "Why" space should be separated or left open, divided by part or low partitions. Privacy - sound control - flexibility - easier maintenance, etc.

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

D CONNECTIONS AND DIVISIONS BETWEEN SPACES (continued)

Beginning again with the kitchen, should it be open or a part of the Family Room? Or should the two spaces be separated by a ceiling high partition with a door? Or by upper cabinets, a pass through counter, or an eating counter?

If there is a pantry, should it be open or have a door? What kind of door? Hinged, folding, etc.

If the laundry equipment is in the Family Room, should it be concealed in any way when not in use?

If the laundry is in utility room adjacent to kitchen, should there be a door? What kind?

If there is a separate Dining Room, should there be a door from kitchen? Folding? Double Acting?

Should there be access between Dining Room and Living Room? What kind? Door? Folding? Or simply a large opening?

Should the Living Room have access to the Family Room? What kind?

Should the Living Room have door to Entry Foyer? To Center Hall connecting Entry, Bedrooms and Kitchen?

Should it be possible to go from Kitchen-Family Room to Bedrooms without passing through Dining and Living Areas? From Kitchen to Front Door?

Should bedrooms be separated from each other by closets?

If more than one bath are located together, should one be limited to access through the Master Bedroom?

What rooms, spaces, or areas should have access directly to outdoors? To patios, terraces, screened porches, etc.? Would meals be served at these outdoor areas? What should the relation of kitchen be to such outdoor areas?

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

E SIGNIFICANT DETAILS

1 Ceiling Heights

What should the minimum ceiling heights be in various rooms? Kitchen - Family Room - Laundry - Dining - Living - Bedrooms - Basement - Attic?

What determines the best height for ceilings? "Why" is a particular height preferred?

2 Flat Ceilings

Are other than flat ceilings necessary? Are they desirable? What kind other than flat are preferred? What are the advantages? What makes them desirable? What about exposed beams and roof board?

3 Kitchen

- a. Fixture arrangement? How should fixtures in kitchen be arranged - "U" shape - "L" shape - corridor type? What should relation be of range to sink to refrigerator. Discuss all aspects, bringing out reasons, advantages and disadvantages.
- b. Upper cabinets: How many or how many feet of shelving should there be? How high should the top shelf be from floor? If upper shelf was adjustable would that solve the problems of the short girl? Are there any disadvantages? How wide should shelves be? All same width? How many narrow ones? Where located? What would they be used for?
- c. Lower cabinets: How much counter top should there be? Lineal feet? Where located?
- (1) Should sinks be single or double?
- (2) What are advantages and disadvantages.
- (3) Should counter tops be of a hard or a resilient material? Why?

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

E SIGNIFICANT DETAILS

3-c (continued) (Kitchen)

- (4) What should width of working counter be?
- (5) What should height of counters be? Uniform or varied for standing and sitting tasks? How high? Why?
- (6) Are there any suggestions for solving counter heights for short and tall girls and still retain economies of standardization?
- (7) Are open shelves acceptable? What location? Advantages and disadvantages?
- (8) What kind of doors? Hinged? Sliding? Upper and lower cabinets.

4 Special Rooms

- a. Are kitchens open to living and dining areas acceptable if proper natural light on work areas? Desirable? Undesirable? What are advantages and disadvantages?
- b. All-Purpose-Child-Bedroom Combination: Is a play room with small bedrooms opening into it satisfactory? It is usually necessary to cross playroom from bedrooms to bath? Is this acceptable? What should minimum sizes of play room and bedrooms be? What are advantages and disadvantages?
- c. Interior Bath: Are interior baths with no window in wall acceptable? If ventilating skylight is provided? If fan which operates when door is closed is provided? What are advantages and disadvantages?
- d. Bathroom Fixtures: Is a stall shower instead of tub acceptable if there is only one bath.
- e. Electrical Wiring:
 - (1) What size should service be? 60 Amp - 100 Amp?
 - (2) Should ceiling fixtures be provided in any rooms? Which? Why are they necessary?

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

E SIGNIFICANT DETAILS

- (3) What about convenience outlets? How many should there be in each room or on each wall? How about kitchen? Other special considerations?
- (4) How high should convenience outlets be above floor? Why?

APR 26 1956

PROMPT SHEET

Tuesday (A.M.) Session
April 24, 1956

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II EXTERIOR APPEARANCE

A WINDOWS

1 Floor to Ceiling Glass

In what rooms should it be provided? Does it make any difference if facing street, side or rear yard? What about facing in regard to sun; south, east, north, west?

Is it necessary to have a "view"?

Can one create one's own view in a suburban area?

Should provision be made for ventilators? At Top? At bottom? Other?

How much ventilation should be provided? Can you state in a percent of floor area? Some other convenient measure?

What are advantages and disadvantages?

2 Picture Windows

(Discussion of glass floor-to-ceiling above will probably be similar)

Probe for any differences.

What is consensus.

3 Windows with Sills 4' to 5' Above Floor

Some like windows with so-called shoulder high sills in bedrooms because of privacy and flexibility of furniture arrangements in small rooms. Others dislike them because children and ill people cannot see outdoors? Do advantages outweigh disadvantages? Are they desirable in some rooms but not in others? For example: bedrooms facing street or closely spaced neighbor's house?

4 Types of Windows

Do any types of windows have special advantages - double hung, sliding, open out casements, open in casements, awning type, etc.? Is there a preference? Why? What are advantages? Any disadvantages?

II EXTERIOR APPEARANCE
(continued)

A WINDOWS

5 thru 6 Should Builders Provide Such Items AS:

Screens, storm sash, screen doors, storm doors, venetian blinds, exterior shutters, etc.? Which? Why should builder provide? What advantages or disadvantages?

7 Type of House

How should the basic space components of a house for middle income be located vertically? What are the important factors to a homemaker in preferring a one story house? Split level? Two story?

One Story

If there was no difference in cost would a house on one level only be preferred? Is a one level house convenient? Are there any disadvantages? Could they be overcome with proper planning? What should be done?

Is a basement essential? Or is it accepted because it is considered to cost less than space above ground? Is it believed that it keeps a house warmer? If adequate provisions were made above ground for things basement is used for, at no added cost, would need for be removed? What are advantages and disadvantages? Can they be overcome? (Some questions may have been resolved when selecting the basement)

Story and Half

Some expressed desire for story and half house - some wanted the upper story unfinished to use as attic and for future expansion? What is the consensus? Is there any advantage? What are disadvantages?

II EXTERIOR APPEARANCE
(continued)

A WINDOWS

7 Type of House - continued

Split Level

There was considerable favorable comment on this type as a good compromise between the one level and the two story house, retaining advantages of lower cost and eliminating stairs? What is the consensus? Some claimed the stairs, even though the flights were less high, still presented a hazard to young children and the elderly? Some liked the greater privacy of bedrooms above ground? Some disliked the stairs separating baby, the kitchen and the front door? One was always on the wrong level when things were happening? What is the consensus? "Why" is the split level favored?

Two Story

There was some considerable support for the two story house? Economy here seemed to be the reason. If more space could be achieved at lower cost would the two story house be desirable? Acceptable? Stairs, of course, were mentioned by many as a disadvantage? What is the consensus? Should there be a basement?

8 Appearance of House

There was very little comment on architectural "style." Concern was more with easy to maintain finishes, and with consideration given to design for climate control. Surfaces that reflect sun's heat - insulating materials - roof overhangs to protect from sun and rain. Some talked about not having the house too radical in appearance, yet most that talked about exterior design complained about "peas-in-a-pod" appearance. They want houses to have individuality. They compare their reaction to similar houses with that to the same dress or hat. They recognize the economies of standardization but

II EXTERIOR APPEARANCE
(continued)

A WINDOWS

8 Appearance of House - continued

feel something better could be done.

What should be done? Use cruved streets? Vary setback lines? Locate houses primarily to take advantage of sun, breezes and better views? Use differing plans and elevations? Different materials and colors? What is consensus?

Should contemporary construction methods, indoor-outdoor relationships and open planning predominate? Or should the houses be more like older traditional houses in the area? What are the factors that should control the appearance of the house?

Roof Types

The shape of the roof contributes greatly to the appearance of a house. The roof, of course, is influenced by the type of house - split level - one story - whether there is attic space, etc.

What roof types are acceptable? Flat - shed or pent - low pitch - high pitch - the more unusual butterfly (two way pitch toward center of roof)? What is important about the roof? The color - for reflection of sun heat? Harmony with other houses in the neighborhood? Should eave overhangs be built to control sunlight and heat? Are gutters and downspouts necessary in all areas of the country?

If economy can be achieved in using one type of roof should that be given strong consideration? What is the consensus?

APR 26 1956

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ARCHITECTS CHECK LIST

CODE: Lth. - Length
Wth. - Width

Monday (A.M.) Session
April 23, 1956

I INTERIOR PLANNING

Min-		Desi-	
i-		ra-	
mum		ble	
Size		Size	
Lth.	Wth.	Lth.	Wth.

A BASIC COMPONENTS

- 1- Kitchen (separate working kitchen) _____
- 2- Kitchen plus dining _____
 - a. Built-in nook _____
 - b. Counter or bar & stools _____
 - c. Space for table & chairs (number ___) _____
- 3- Kitchen plus laundry _____
- 4- Kitchen plus laundry plus dining _____
- 5- Kitchen-family room _____
 - a. Family room separate _____
 - b. Kitchen-family room combination - for activities: _____
 - ___ (1) Food preparation & service work
 - ___ (2) Deep freeze
 - ___ (3) Bar type eating
 - ___ (4) Family dining
 - ___ (5) Laundry
 - ___ (6) Ironing _____ Ironer
 - ___ (7) Sewing _____ Machine
 - ___ (8) Play area for babies
 - ___ (9) Game room and "messy" work area for youngsters
 - ___ (10) Meetings and dance area for teenagers
 - ___ (11) T. V. viewing
 - ___ (12) Hobbies for young and adults
 - ___ (13) Informal adult guest meals
 - ___ (14) Guest sleeping
 - ___ (15) Other
- 6- Pantry _____
- 7- Laundry (other than kitchen or family room) _____
 - a. Combined with bathroom _____
 - b. In corridor near bath _____
 - c. In basement _____
 - d. On rear porch _____
 - e. In carport or garage _____

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

Min-		Desi-	
i-		ra-	
mum		ble	
Size		Size	
<u>Lth.</u>	<u>Wth.</u>	<u>Lth.</u>	<u>Wth.</u>

A BASIC COMPONENTS

7- Laundry (other than kitchen or family room) - (continued)

f. In separate utility room for

- ___ (1) Automatic washer-dryer (combined)
- ___ (2) Automatic washer (separate)
- ___ (3) Automatic dryer (separate)
- ___ (4) Non-automatic washer
- ___ (5) Laundry trays: single ___ double ___
- ___ (6) Ironer
- ___ (7) Built-in ironing board
- ___ (8) Free-standing ironing board
- ___ (9) Sewing machine
- ___ (10) Maintenance work bench and tools
- ___ (11) Removal & storage of galoshes, rubbers, wet & dry play and work clothes
- ___ (12) Space heat and cool equipment
- ___ (13) Water heat equipment
- ___ (14) Other

8- Rear entrance

- a. Direct into kitchen
- b. Into laundry-utility room
- c. Into mud room
- d. Enclosed porch
- e. Screened porch
- f. Through carport
- g. Through garage

9- Half-bath at kitchen entry

- a. If house has only 1-1/2 baths, locate near rear entry
- b. 1/2 bath at kitchen not necessary

10- Basement

- a. Basement not essential if provisions made for items checked under "b" below:

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

Min-	Desi-
i-	ra-
num	ble
Size	Size
Lth. Wth.	Lth. Wth.

A BASIC COMPONENTS

10- Basement (continued)

b. Basement essential for

- ___ (1) Cheapest space to buy
- ___ (2) Keeps house warm
- ___ (3) Reduce cost of heating
- ___ (4) Space heat and cool equipment
- ___ (5) Water heating equipment
- ___ (6) Laundry tray
- ___ (7) Non-automatic washer
- ___ (8) Automatic laundry equipment
- ___ (9) Clothes dry in wet weather
- ___ (10) Wet and muddy entrance to house
- ___ (11) Work bench and tools
- ___ (12) Maintenance supplies
- ___ (13) Screen and storm sash storage
- ___ (14) Lawnmower and garden tools
- ___ (15) Garden and terrace furniture storage
- ___ (16) Bikes, trikes and other wheel toys
- ___ (17) Hobby space for family
- ___ (18) Rainy day play for children
- ___ (19) Meeting and rumpus room for teenagers
- ___ (20) Recreation room for adults
- ___ (21) Items periodically used (baby carriage, high chair, toys, etc.)
- ___ (22) Other

11- Attics

a. Attic not essential if provisions made for items checked under "b" below:

b. Attic essential for:

- ___ (1) Cheapest storage space
- ___ (2) Keeps house cool
- ___ (3) Off-seasonal clothing storage
- ___ (4) Items periodically used (baby carriage, high chair, bathinette, holiday ornaments, etc.)
- ___ (5) Other

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

A BASIC COMPONENTS

Min- i- mum Size		Desi- ra- ble Size	
Lth.	Wth.	Lth.	Wth.

- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 12- Dining room (separate) | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 13- Dining in "L" of living room | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 14- Dining at end of living room | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15- Living room (separate): Active | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 16- Parlor living room (separate): Quiet | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 17- Front entrance | | | | |
| a. Direct into living room | --- | | | |
| b. Living room protected by some type screen | --- | | | |
| c. Enclosed foyer or hall | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 18- Guest coat closet | | | | |
| a. Not essential | --- | | | |
| b. Essential beside front door | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| c. Essential in foyer or hall | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| d. May be located elsewhere near front entrance | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 19- Den | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 20- Guest room | | | | |
| a. Separate room | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| b. Combined with den | --- | | | |
| c. Combined with family room | --- | | | |
| d. Counted as one bedroom | --- | | | |
| e. Other | --- | | | |
| 21- Bedrooms (additional to den or guest) | | | | |
| a. Two (2) | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| b. Three (3) | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| c. Four (4) | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| d. More | --- | --- | --- | --- |

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

BASIC COMPONENTS

Min- i- mum Size		Desi- ra- ble Size	
<u>Lth.</u>	<u>Wth.</u>	<u>Lth.</u>	<u>Wth.</u>

22- Bedroom closets

- a. One each room
- b. Two in parents - one in others
- c. Two each room
- d. Other _____

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

23- Bathrooms

- a. One (1)
- b. One and one-half (1-1/2)
- c. Two (2)
- d. Two and one-half (2-1/2)
- e. More

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

24- Other storage - for:

- ___ a. Sheets, pillow cases, etc.
- ___ b. Blankets, bed covers, etc.
- ___ c. Bath towels, mats, face cloths, etc.
- ___ d. Bath supplies: soap, tissues, etc.
- ___ e. Medicinal supplies
- ___ f. Off-season clothing
- ___ g. Cleaning: brooms, vacuum, mops, etc.
- ___ h. Cleaning supplies: powders, polish, waxes
- ___ i. Sports equipment: golf, tennis, skis, etc.
- ___ j. Seasonal items, holiday decorations, etc.
- ___ k. Periodic items, bathinette, high chair, etc.
- ___ l. Books, music, records, etc.
- ___ m. Fine china, glassware, silver, etc.
- ___ n. Other

25- Carport and garage

- a. Single garage
- b. Double garage
- c. Single carport
- d. Double carport

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

B MINIMUM AND DESIRABLE SIZES OF COMPONENTS

(List in spaces indicated in "A" above)

ARCHITECTS CHECK LIST

Monday (P.M.) Session
April 23, 1956

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

C LOCATION AND RELATION OF BASIC COMPONENTS

1- Kitchen (work area - separate or in family room)

- a. Looking onto back yard
- b. Looking onto side yard
- c. Looking toward street
- d. Location not important, but face N __, S __, E __, W __.

e. Access to:

- (1) Family room
- (2) Pantry
- (3) Laundry utility
- (4) Rear or side yard
- (5) Basement
- (6) Dining room
- (7) Living room
- (8) Front entrance - without going through living and dining room
- (9) Bedrooms and bath - without going through living and dining room
- (10) Outdoor eating area
- (11) Carport or garage
- (12) Other

—
—
—

2- Family room

- a. Looking onto back yard
- b. Looking onto side yard
- c. Looking toward street
- d. Location not important, but face N __, S __, E __, W __.

e. Access to:

- (1) Kitchen
- (2) Laundry utility
- (3) Dining room
- (4) Living room
- (5) Front entrance - without going through living and dining room
- (6) Bedrooms and bath - without going through living and dining room
- (7) Outdoor eating area
- (8) Other

—
—
—

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

C LOCATION AND RELATION OF BASIC COMPONENTS

3- Laundry utility room

- a. Looking onto back yard
- b. Looking onto side yard
- c. Looking toward street
- d. Location not significant

- e. Access to:
 - (1) Kitchen
 - (2) Outdoor
 - (3) Other

4- Rear entrance

- a. Access to:
 - (1) Kitchen
 - (2) Half-bath
 - (3) Laundry utility
 - (4) Basement
 - (5) Other

5- Dining room

- a. Looking onto rear yard
- b. Looking onto side yard
- c. Looking toward street
- d. Location not important, but face N ___, S ___, E ___, W ___.

- e. Access to:
 - (1) Kitchen
 - (2) Family room
 - (3) Living room
 - (4) Outdoors
 - (5) Other

6- Living room

- a. Looking onto rear yard
- b. Looking onto side yard
- c. Looking toward street
- d. Location not important, but face N ___, S ___, E ___, W ___.

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

C LOCATION AND RELATION OF BASIC COMPONENTS

7- Parents bedroom

- a. Looking onto rear yard
- b. Looking onto side yard
- c. Looking toward street
- d. Location not important, but face N __, S __, E __, W __.

8- Children's bedrooms

- a. Looking onto rear yard
- b. Looking onto side yard
- c. Looking toward street
- d. Location not important, but face N __, S __, E __, W __.

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

D CONNECTIONS AND DIVISIONS BETWEEN SPACES

	<u>Partition & Door Be- tween</u>	<u>Low Par- tition or Counter</u>	<u>Open To</u>	<u>Other</u>
1- Kitchen (work area)				
a. Family room	---	---	---	---
b. Pantry	---	---	---	---
c. Laundry-utility	---	---	---	---
d. Dining room	---	---	---	---
e. Living room	---	---	---	---
f. Access hall to bedrooms, front door, etc.	---	---	---	---
g. Other	---	---	---	---
2- Family room				
a. Pantry	---	---	---	---
b. Laundry-utility	---	---	---	---
c. Dining room	---	---	---	---
d. Living room	---	---	---	---
e. Access hall to bedrooms, front door, etc.	---	---	---	---
f. Other	---	---	---	---
3- Living room				
a. Dining room	---	---	---	---
b. Access hall to bedrooms, front door, etc.	---	---	---	---
c. Other	---	---	---	---
4- Front entrance				
a. Entrance foyer and access hall to living room, bedrooms, etc.	---	---	---	---
b. Entrance foyer and living room	---	---	---	---
c. Other	---	---	---	---
5- Doors				
a. Hinged	---			
b. Sliding	---			
c. Folding	---			
d. Other	---			

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

E SIGNIFICANT DETAILS

1- Ceiling heights	<u>Lower</u>	<u>7'-6"</u>	<u>8'-0"</u>	<u>Higher</u>
a. Kitchen	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. Family room	_____	_____	_____	_____
c. Laundry utility	_____	_____	_____	_____
d. Dining room	_____	_____	_____	_____
e. Living room	_____	_____	_____	_____
f. Bedrooms	_____	_____	_____	_____
g. Halls, etc.	_____	_____	_____	_____
h. Basements	_____	_____	_____	_____
i. Attic type bedrooms	_____	_____	_____	_____
j. Other	_____	_____	_____	_____

2- Ceiling types other than flat

- a. Low-slope exposed roof-ceiling _____
- b. Exposed beams and roof boards _____
- c. Other _____

B- Kitchen

- a. Upper cabinets
 - (1) Maximum height of top shelf
 - (2) Top shelf adjustable Yes _____ No _____
 - (3) Linear feet of shelving or cabinets _____ ft.
 - (4) Minimum width of major shelving _____ in.
 - (5) Variable widths _____ in. _____ in.
 - (6) Open shelving _____
 - (7) Hinged doors _____
 - (8) Sliding doors _____
- b. Lower cabinets and counter
 - (1) Total length of work counter (excluding sink) _____ ft.
 - (2) Sink size _____ in. _____ in.
One compartment _____
Two compartments _____
 - (3) Height of work counter:
 - (a) Uniform _____ in.
 - (b) Varied:
 - Standing _____ in.
 - Sitting _____ in.
 - Other _____ in.
 - (4) Width of work counters _____ in.

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

E SIGNIFICANT DETAILS

3- Kitchen (continued)

b. Lower cabinets and counter (continued)

- (5) Suggestions for adjusting counter and sink heights for short and tall homemakers.

(Steno to take notes:) _____

4- Special rooms

a. Open kitchen:

- (1) Satisfactory with natural light on work areas _____
- (2) Desirable _____
- (3) Undesirable _____
- (4) No opinion _____

b. All-purpose-child bedroom comb.

- (1) Satisfactory _____
- (2) Desirable but a luxury _____
- (3) Undesirable _____
- (4) No opinion _____
- (5) Minimum size of all-purpose _____ ft. x _____ ft.
- (6) Minimum size of largest bedroom _____ ft. x _____ ft.
- (7) Minimum size of smallest bedroom _____ ft. x _____ ft.

c. Interior bath

- (1) In two bathroom house - one bath may be interior bath, IF
 - (a) Skylight (ventilating) is provided _____
 - (b) Exhaust fan operated by closed door is provided _____
- (2) Interior bath not acceptable _____

d. Bathroom fixtures

- (1) Stall shower: Satisfactory when house has only one room Yes ___ No ___

5- Electrical

- a. Service: 60 Amp. _____ 100 Amp. _____

I INTERIOR PLANNING
(continued)

E SIGNIFICANT DETAILS

5- Electrical (continued)

b. Ceiling outlets:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| (1) Kitchen | _____ | (6) Living room | _____ |
| (2) Family room | _____ | (7) Dining room | _____ |
| (3) Pantry | _____ | (8) Bedrooms | _____ |
| (4) Laundry-utility | _____ | (9) Baths | _____ |
| (5) Entrance halls | _____ | (10) Closets | _____ |

c. Convenience outlets:

- | | <u>Each Room</u> | or | <u>Each Wall</u> |
|---------------------|------------------|----|------------------|
| (1) Kitchen | _____ | | _____ |
| (2) Family room | _____ | | _____ |
| (3) Laundry-utility | _____ | | _____ |
| (4) Dining room | _____ | | _____ |
| (5) Living room | _____ | | _____ |
| (6) Bedrooms | _____ | | _____ |
| (7) Other _____ | _____ | | _____ |

d. Height of outlets:

Above floor - _____ in. or _____ ft.

6- Interior weather conditioning:

- a. Air conditioning installed _____
- b. Provisions made for future installation _____
- c. Ceiling and wall insulation _____

7- Sound deadening materials provided:

- a. Ceilings of family room _____
- b. Ceilings of kitchen _____
- c. Ceilings of utility room _____
- d. Other _____

ARCHITECTS CHECK LIST

Tuesday (A.M.) Session
 April 24, 1956

II EXTERIOR APPEARANCE

A FLOOR TO CEILING GLASS

	<u>Street</u>	<u>Rear Yard</u>	<u>Side Yard</u>	<u>N.</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>E.</u>	<u>W.</u>
1- Family room	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2- Dining room	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
3- Living room	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
4- Parent's bedroom	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
5- Children's bedroom	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
6- Other (List) _____	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
7- None	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B PICTURE WINDOWS

1- Family room	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2- Dining room	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
3- Living room	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
4- Parent's bedroom	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
5- Children's bedroom	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
6- Other (List) _____	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
7- None	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

C ALL WINDOW SILLS - 4'-0" to 5'-0" ABOVE FLOOR:

1- Dining room	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2- Parent's bedroom	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
3- Children's bedroom	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
4- Other (List) _____	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
5- None	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

D TYPE OF WINDOWS

1- Double hung	---
2- Sliding	---
3- Open out casements	---
4- Open in casements	---
5- Awning	---
6- Other _____	---

NATURAL VENTILATION

1- Rooms with fixed glass walls and picture windows should have ventilating windows _____ % of floor area

II EXTERIOR APPEARANCE
(continued)

F ACCESSORIES BUILDER SHOULD PROVIDE

- 1- Window screens _____
 - 2- Storm sash _____
 - 3- Screen doors _____
 - 4- Storm doors _____
 - 5- Venetian blinds _____
 - 6- Exterior shutters _____
 - 7- Other (List) _____
-
-

G TYPE OF HOUSE

- 1- One story (with basement & attic equivalent*) _____
- 2- One story and basement _____
- 3- One story plus basement plus attic storage _____
- 4- One story plus 1/2 story unfinished _____
- 5- One story plus 1/2 story unfinished plus basement _____
- 6- One and 1/2 story finished plus basement _____
- 7- Split level _____
- 8- Two story _____
- 9- Two story plus basement _____

H APPEARANCE OF HOUSE

- 1- Traditional house in the area using customary materials and established construction methods _____
 - 2- Contemporary using open planning, large glass areas, indoor-outdoor relationship, non-traditional materials and new construction methods _____
 - 3- Other (describe) _____
-
-

I ROOF TYPE

- 1- Flat roof _____
 - 2- Shed roof _____
 - 3- Low pitched roof _____
 - 4- High pitched roof _____
 - 5- Butterfly roof _____
 - 6- Other (List) _____
-
-

J EAVES

Roof overhangs should provide for sunlight control in summer & winter Yes ___ No ___

* Basement and attic equivalent means extra space all on one level for those activities and storage purposes that basements and attics normally supply.

III LOT REQUIREMENTS

A LOT SIZES

- 1- Minimum lot size _____ sq. ft.
- 2- Minimum lot width _____ ft.
- 3- Minimum lot depth _____ ft.
- 4- Minimum distance between houses across side yards, IF:
 - a. 5' to 6' screen fence _____ ft.
 - b. No side windows _____ ft.
 - c. High side windows _____ ft.
 - d. Low side windows _____ ft.
- 5- Minimum distance between houses across street, IF:
 - a. Principal living rooms face street _____ ft.
 - b. Principal living rooms do not face street _____ ft.
- 6- Minimum distance between houses across rear yards, IF:
 - a. Principal rooms face rear _____ ft.
 - b. Principal rooms do not face rear _____ ft.
- 7- Preferred lot shape and area at same cost:
 - a. Depth 2 times width (60 x 120 or 7200 sq. ft.) _____
 - b. Depth 1-1/2 times width (65 x 100 or 6500 sq. ft.) _____
- 8- Preferred lot depth, with same width:
 - a. 60' wide and 120' deep at basic price
 - 100' " " \$125 less _____
 - 140' " " \$125 more _____
 - b. 75' wide and 150' deep at basic price
 - 100' " " \$380 less _____
 - 125' " " \$190 less _____
 - 175' " " \$190 more _____

B LOT USAGE

- 1- Minimum distance from street sidewalk to front of house:
 - a. Principal rooms face street: 10 _____; 20 _____; 25 _____; 30 _____.
 - b. Principal rooms do not face street: 10 _____; 20 _____; 25 _____; 30 _____.
- 2- House setbacks from street: Equal _____; Varied Distances _____.
- 3- Most important outdoor activity:

	Space
a. Children's play _____	_____ sq. ft.
b. Outdoor dining _____	_____ sq. ft.
c. Vegetable garden _____	_____ sq. ft.
d. Flower garden _____	_____ sq. ft.
e. Other _____	_____ sq. ft.
- 4- Outdoor drying space necessary - will be necessary even with greater use of automatic laundries:

	Yes _____ No _____
--	--------------------

III LOT REQUIREMENTS
(continued)

B LOT USAGE (continued)

- 5- Garages and carports:
 - a. Attached to house
 - b. Detached

- 6- Parking space for family car necessary on lot and off street:

Yes ___ No ___

- 7- Planting that builder should provide:
 - a. Preserve existing trees
 - b. Shade trees if lot has no trees
 - c. Foundation planting
 - d. Front lawn sodded
 - e. Front lawn seeded
 - f. Other _____

- 8- Erection of fences on lot controlled by covenant:

Front yard
Rear yard

Yes ___ No ___
Yes ___ No ___

- 9- Outside steps should be:

6" rise and 12" tread
7½" " and 11" "

- 10- Handrail should be required if flight of steps is more than:

2' ___ : 2½' ___ : 3' ___ : 4' ___ : 5' ___.

- 11- Landing platform should be required if flight of steps is:

3' ___ : 4' ___ : 5' ___ : 6' ___ : 7' ___.

- 12- Power poles and overhead lines:

In public street
Along rear lot line

ARCHITECTS CHECK LIST

Tuesday (P.M.) Session
 April 24, 1956

IV NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

A STREET LAYOUT

- 1- Preferred street patterns:
 - a. Curved _____
 - b. Dead-end _____
 - c. Cul-de-sac _____
 - d. Straight gridiron _____

- 2- Sidewalks necessary on:
 - a. Both sides of street _____
 - b. One side _____
 - c. Neither side _____

- 3- Shade trees should be:
 - Planted along public streets as a necessity: Yes _____ No _____

- 4- Housing facing heavily trafficked streets are satisfactory, IF:
 - a. Planted strips are provided along edge of street to screen traffic _____
 - b. Access or service roads parallel to main street are provided _____
 - c. House setback from street is greater than normal _____

B FACILITIES

- 1- Maximum distance to:

	Distance	Time	
	(Miles or frac- tion thereof)	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Minutes</u>
a. Primary school	_____	_____	_____
b. Secondary school	_____	_____	_____
c. High school	_____	_____	_____
d. Shopping	_____	_____	_____
e. Place of employment	_____	_____	_____
f. Church	_____	_____	_____
g. Movies, bowling and similar recreation	_____	_____	_____

- 2- "Corner Grocery Store" is an asset to neighborhoods: Yes _____ No _____

- 3- Greatest distance to "Corner Grocery" should not be more than: _____ blocks

- 4- There is a need for "Something-in-Between" corner grocery and large shopping centers: Yes _____ No _____

IV NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
(continued)

B FACILITIES (continued)

5- Special site planning and zoning are necessary to make
"Corner Grocery Stores" good neighbors to abutting homes:

Yes No

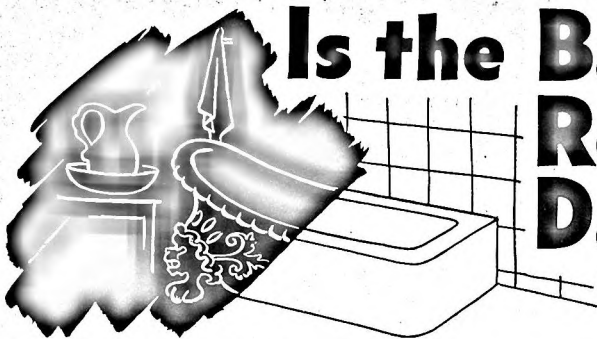
6- Other community facilities desirable within neighborhood of homes:

- a. Churches _____
 - b. Day nurseries _____
 - c. Club houses _____
 - d. Community buildings _____
 - e. Other (List) _____
- _____
- _____

7- Small playgrounds for young children (4-8 years) in single home neighborhoods are:

- Necessary _____
- Desirable _____
- Not needed _____

Maximum distance _____ blocks



Is the Bathroom a Relic of the Dark Ages?

NOTE TO THE READER:

The editors of the Journal for some time have felt it should have some things in it of interest to the family of the member, as well as to the member working in the industry. So the Journal carries news and feature articles related to industry and labor.

This article discusses what representative American women have to say about the American home of the future. We believe it will be of particular interest to those in the

home construction business, and also to other members.

And we think it may be of interest to the wives and daughters of members of the Association.

In Grandmother's day, people did not talk openly about building better bathrooms. But today they do. They are treated like any other common sense matter. And the Journal editors believe that common sense has been good for the improvement of plumbing, good for people, and of course good for our industry.

IS THE bathroom "the most old-fashioned room in the house?" Is the bathroom "a relic of the Dark Ages?"

Apparently a lot of American wives and mothers think so. In fact there is practically nothing like it anywhere else on the globe. But it isn't good enough, according to some experts. And these experts happen to be housewives.

The federal government recently sponsored a meeting of housewives in Washington, under the name of the Women's Congress on Housing. Some one in the government had the thought that various government agencies deal with housing and make plans for the future, yet the government perhaps didn't know what American women expected in the home of tomorrow. So they said to themselves, "Let's keep the housing folks quiet and ask some women what they would like in a house."

So 130 typical American women from all parts of the country were gathered in Washington, and for several days talked about homes and what ought to be done to improve them.

The report of the housewives naturally hit the front pages. Particularly angry was the statement of one delegate, Mrs William J. Moore of Pelham Manor, New York. She said the bathroom was "the great American boo-boo and a relic of the Dark Ages."

Her comments—and the other statements from the ladies—were bound to make some people mad.

The Plumbing Fixture Manufacturers' Association replied to the housewives immediately. They even called a press conference. "The bathroom has made more progress during

the past fifty years than almost any other room in the modern home. Not too long ago, the bathroom was merely a place to take a bath. And, back around 1900, the privy was a common sight all over America."

It might be emphasized right here that the entire group of 130 did not complain about the modern American bathroom.

But at times the crowd of 130 ladies was split into small groups. One of those groups reported:

The group felt that the bathroom is the most important and archaic part of today's home. The group expressed a desire for complete streamlining of bathrooms, with rounded corners for casier maintenance and cleaning, sinks at more convenient heights, a bath tub separate from the shower, and a free-standing water closet."

This recommendation was the first thing they had to say when they went over ways to improve the American housing of the future.

A spokesman for the plumbing fixture industry replied to this with pages and pages of prepared statements. Such things as free-standing toilets require different kinds of piping and are going to cost more money, he pointed out. Also, most bathroom equipment sold today has completely rounded corners. Equipment can be put at any height and size desired. . . . if you have the money.

The spokesman for the plumbing fixture manufacturers pointed out that although the best American homes have one-and-a-half baths, or even two baths or three baths, this is a recent development. Other items of progress are seen in some new homes, and

still others are standard in the average home—but far too many homes are below average.

Millions of home owners still have bathrooms full of obsolete, inadequate fixtures. The 1950 Census of Housing shows over three-million non-farm residences do not have either a private bath or a toilet. They do not have hot, running water, either.

Another nine million homes have only cold running water. Eight million units have no private bath or shower. There are even seven million homes which do not have shared facilities of any kind.

(And still some management and some non-union labor can't understand why top union leaders are not completely satisfied with the present standard of living.)

The plumbing fixture manufacturers explained why they were in full agreement with the women when they said "We want a minimum of a bath-and-a-half in a three bedroom home and two-and-a-half baths in a four bedroom home." The women also want more storage space, larger fixtures, heating and ventilation and other features in their bathrooms.

The manufacturers point out these kind of fixtures are now available:

Two countertop lavatories for extra storage space and greater convenience—fine for Mom and Dad to use one and the kids to use the other.

Lavatories with chromium-plated brass legs or pedestal-type lavatories. Conventional bath tubs, square tubs, and receptor tubs in many sizes.

One-piece and close-coupled toilets with a siphon-jet, washdown or reverse-trap flushing.

All these fixtures are available in



Labor • gram



« Big news this month is the UA's 27 Convention which opens in Kansas City on August 13.

Delegates from the 48 states and Canada will meet in democratic sessions to hammer out the programs and policies of the Union for the ensuing years.

The delegates and officers of the Union will have serious work in front of them and will consider, discuss and vote on proposed changes, resolutions and many matters of administrative and organizational policy.

« The cost of living has climbed to an all-time high of 116.2.

The primary cause of the rise is food prices, which have spiraled 2 per cent between May and June. The present 116.2 index is 1.8 per cent higher than a year ago.

This rise is the largest for any one month since February 1951, when the index climbed 1.2 per cent.

Labor Department officials predict still another rise for the ensuing month.

« The Senate's vote rejecting public development of Hells Canyon should open the eyes of the public. It fixes the responsibility permanently upon the administration for allowing exploitation of natural resources by privileged private interests for their profit.

Pressure brought by the White House upon Senators was sufficient to swing the vote and defeat the Democratic-sponsored bill.

Hells Canyon development, by public interests, would have provided a neat profit for the U. S. Treasury and would have been self-liquidating.

« Louisiana Labor's success in obtaining repeal of the so-called "right-to-work" law is a prime example of effective political activity.

It points up sharply what can be accomplished through unity of labor forces, hard work at all levels and applying the best brains to avoid political mistakes. It should serve as a case history for study by labor organizations in other states where these infamous laws are on the books.

THESE LADIES STARTED THE DISCUSSION ON PLUMBING—This is a typical group of the 130 representative women who met in Washington to give the government and the building industry the benefit of practical advice on what typical wives and mothers would like to see in the American home. The man seated at the table is Albert M. Cole, administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency. The man standing is Ernest Magers, an architect.



white and many shades of color including deep red, green, suntan, ivory, yellow, blue, gray, pink and white.

Plumbing manufacturers point out the shower-and-bath is greatly improved over yesterday.

(The ladies, incidentally, said if they were going to have only one unit in a house—that is, either a shower or a tub—then they wanted to be sure to have a tub. They do not want a shower to be the only way to get clean.)

Today's tub is set right on the floor, there is no need to sweep under it, the manufacturers point out, and the flat surface on the sides means a mother can sit there while she bathes a child. She could not sit comfortably on the rounded sides of yesteryear.

Fluorescent lights are often placed on both sides of a big mirror in the modern bathroom, and make the room appear much larger and more pleasant.

A ventilator fan is recommended for any bathroom. In the case of bathrooms in the interior of a house, without any windows, the FHA will approve loans on such a house if the

bathroom has an exhaust fan.

The use of extra bathrooms or of half baths is greatly increasing in the homes built today. It is also suggested that an extra hand-lavatory in a bedroom is a big help on cutting down on bathroom traffic in a large family.

The Plumbing Fixture Manufacturers Association says some of the questions the women asked and some possible answers go about as follows:

QUESTION: Why has the bathroom remained "old-fashioned" when other parts of the home have improved so much?

ANSWER: The bathroom has made more progress in the last 50 years than any other room in the house. It was not brought into the house until about 1875 and didn't become a special room until 1900.

QUESTION: It's hard to clean around a toilet. Why can't wall-hung toilets be installed in the home?

ANSWER: They can. However, there are certain problems involved which in many cases would increase the total cost of installation of a toilet. First of all, wall-hanging water clos-

ets require special iron supports hidden in the walls and under the floor to bear the load. Another problem is that the average home has only half-inch supply pipes leading to the various fixtures. However, in order to properly cleanse and flush a water closet, a one-and-a-half to two-inch supply pipe to the flush valve would be required in most cases. Since modern water closets equipped with tanks already operate quietly and efficiently, home builders have been reluctant to incur added expense.

QUESTION: Why are there no fixtures to make it easier to bathe children and tend to them in the bathroom?

ANSWER: A complete junior bathroom or any part of it can be installed in a private home. Lavatories, water closets and bathtubs are available in numerous sizes. American families can plan a bathroom especially for growing children. Such bathrooms could be planned so that small fixtures and special children's accessories can be economically replaced with adult-size equipment when the children grow up.

THE MODERN BATHROOM—This bathroom looks elegant, but would not cost a fortune. It does not have a stall shower, the floor is linoleum, part of the wall is plain brick. But it has modern appliances. At the far right can be seen the latest idea, and one which the women of the housing congress asked for without knowing it already existed. They complained that bathrooms are damp, and it is hard to dry stockings or towels in them. The rack at the right has an electric unit which gives a very low heat, but enough to dry out stockings.





REMODELING THE BATHROOM—Some of the women at the congress who criticized bathrooms had obviously come from homes which had old-style bathrooms, and perhaps many of their neighbors had the same type. These two photographs show what an amazing difference remodeling can make in a bathroom. This job, however, would cost quite a bit.

QUESTION: Why aren't there any lavatories with the bowl large enough for bathing babies?

ANSWER: Lavatories are manufactured in numerous sizes with basins of varying widths and depths—many of which are certainly large enough for bathing babies. However, many home builders, and home owners with an eye to economy, have installed fixtures which are too small for this particular purpose.

QUESTION: Why doesn't the bathroom have a special place to dry towels and personal laundry?

ANSWER: If the home-buyer requests, concealed drying racks can be built into the walls while the house is being constructed.

QUESTION: With the bathroom so damp all the time it's impossible to dry clothes even with sufficient heat. Why isn't something done about it?

ANSWER: Exhaust fans properly installed will keep a bathroom fresh and moisture-free in both summer and winter.

It would be a great mistake to think the women's housing session talked mainly about the bathroom.

They had many other suggestions.

The much-advertised "picture window" does not make such a big hit with the women. They want no picture windows unless the house really has a view. They want the windows at "normal height", so that children can look out of them.

The women are very anxious to have a kind of "mud room" at the back of the house, a place where the kids can come in, dirty from play, and change their shoes before coming into the rest of the house. The women would like to have a lavatory or maybe a shower-bath installed there. They also think it might make a workroom for Dad.

The ladies would like the contractor to please leave the original trees on the lot. If some more trees have to be planted, they certainly would rather pick the locations themselves than have the builder pick them out.

They would like a \$10,000 to \$15,000 house, with living-space area of 1200 to 1500 feet. They say the minimum requirements for a typical family are three bedrooms, one-and-a-half baths, ample closet and storage space, and a "family room" close to the kitchen. This is a different kind of room from the "living-room." In the family room the kids can do more what they please.



WALL-HUNG WATER CLOSETS WERE SUGGESTED—The women at the housing congress asked industry why the average home could not have wall-hung toilets such as are used in public bathrooms. One answer may be that given by the fixture manufacturers—it costs more money for extra strong supports for this type. The ladies say the wall-hung type would be much easier to sweep around and keep clean.

Women from New England generally favored traditional architecture—Cape Cod houses and the like. The Midwest and Southwest have gone strong for contemporary and one-story homes.

The women are willing to sacrifice the dining room, and also do not care too much about either the basement or the attic. They like the idea of storage space between the roof of the garage and the automobile, where bicycles and the like can be put away for a season.

They prefer not to have fences around a house—"they aren't neighborly and they don't keep children in, anyway."

They are not strong for lots of gadgets and appliances built in and included in the price of the house. They would rather have a lower-priced house, and buy their own equipment in their own way when they need and can afford it.

Their dream lot should be at least 150' by 75', they said, and the playground and laundry space should be in the backyard. In general, they said they wanted more space and less gadgets.

Getting back to plumbing, they would like to have a half-bath off the living room or the "family room."

The ladies will have another word on the subject of the modern bathroom. The full report of the Women's Congress on Housing is being prepared and will be out in a few weeks.

The defenders of the bathroom of today will also have more to say. The fixture manufacturers have sent the ladies a long questionnaire to get more details on their ideas for the improvement of plumbing.

When the questionnaires have all been tabulated the manufacturers will have more to say.

One thing is certain. The women will have the last word.

One reason is that they will have a lot to say in the future when their husbands are buying new homes.

JUL 6 1956

C. 2

The Women's Congress on Housing Designs Mrs. America's Home

by

MRS. FREDERICK A. VANDENBERGH, JR.



It has been my privilege and very real pleasure to be a part of the first Women's Congress on Housing ever held in the United States. It was called by the Hon. Albert M. Cole, Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency in Washington, D. C. on the dates of April 23-24-25, 1956.

The purpose of the Congress was to give the representative housewives of the country an opportunity to express their views on the needs, desires, functional requirements and basic design which the average family expected or wanted in their home.

The Government posed a real challenge to all of us to try to plan for a 1000-1200 square foot house in the cost range of \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00.

The delegates were divided into 10 groups, or tables, selected by reason of geographical areas. Each with a moderator and a registered architect who acted as counsellor and arbiter. Our group consisted of the States of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, District of Columbia and Virginia, and we decided to accept the challenge of the Housing Agency as outlined above.

Despite the fact that the delegates were from all parts of the country, where differences in design and structure are dictated by differences in climate, the women were of one mind as to the basic functions of a house and the manner in which a home best serves the life of a family.

All delegates were emphatic, that the physical structure of the house should serve to draw the family together emotionally and spiritually. They felt that the layout of a house

should serve both to promote joint family activity and at the same time protect the right of privacy of the individual members of the family. And they regarded privacy as a right of husbands and wives as well as children.

The women were practically unanimous in wanting a minimum 3 bedroom house, with quiet areas separated or insulated from noisy areas; a family room, a living room, a dining room (if possible), a practical, functional kitchen, a utility room, one and a half bathrooms, loads of storage and closet space and the price to be in the \$12,000.00 to \$15,000.00 bracket. They also preferred conventional windows instead of picture windows unless there was a worthwhile view, and all insisted on good, sound, community planning.

Recognizing that technical and economic changes inevitably influence patterns of living, but desiring to remain a part of a community, women want their houses to be flexible to meet changing requirements.

These women did not give a recipe for a Dream House—they were too practical for that.

They did not give a formula for

EDITOR'S NOTE

Mrs. Frederick A. Vandenberg, Jr., who lives in Chestnut Hill just outside of Philadelphia, was the representative of the Middle Atlantic Lumbermen Association at the recent Women's Congress on Housing, called by Hon. Albert M. Cole in Washington, D.C., April 23-24-25, 1956.

In addition to participating in the Housing Congress, Mrs. Vandenberg made a special recording broadcast on the Voice of America to the women of France, outlining the very special part housing and family play in the lives of American women.

For these tremendous contributions in these momentous times, the Board of Directors extends its heartfelt thanks to a gracious lady for her efforts on behalf of the lumber industry and better housing in America.

a universal standardized house that would be equally satisfactory in any area of the country—they were too realistic for that. They know that topography and climate and local customs are not uniform and must be taken into consideration for satisfactory houses.

They recognize the cost benefits of standardization—but they want it confined to those areas where it can pay dividends. They want opportunities left for individual initiative and expression.

They did discuss space in relation to cost. And they did say that they want more space for certain activities and functions—but they want that additional space in the proper places. To get properly planned space in the right places, they would be willing to forego initially the convenience of mechanical labor-saving devices. They want space provided for many of them for later installation. But they want to make their own selections when they feel they can better afford them.

The most time-consuming operation, for many homemakers, is the constant daily chore of house-cleaning. This results when children playing outside have to enter the kitchen, cross the living room and go down a hall to get to a bathroom. And then back out again, perhaps many times a day.

Much of this work could be eliminated if there was what we have called a "mud room" at the kitchen entry. Simply stated, women want a little entry area, where rubbers,

(please turn to page 46)

THE WOMEN'S CONGRESS ON HOUSING

(continued from page 11)

galoshes, snowsuits, and muddy or sandy play clothes could be removed and a lavatory nearby where the children—and Dad—could clean up without tracking all through the house. Here the children can also get those endless drinks of water. A toilet placed here would serve the children running in and out from playing in the back yard, and for taking care of smaller children conveniently, while mother is in the kitchen. It is merely a matter of relocating the company "powder" room to a more convenient place where it is most frequently used.

Women also want a modified area at the front entrance. That is, some kind of a foyer or screened-off area where guests and family can remove wet clothing and leave dripping umbrellas.

They want access to the front door and the bedroom area without having to cross the living room. Halls and passageways are much easier to clean than a whole room.

The majority prefer the laundry near the kitchen, usually in a separate small utility room. This is so they can supervise the small children at the same time that they do the breakfast dishes, wash the clothes and perhaps start the preparation of lunch. Notice the saving of time by telescoping work operations. Again, when they have areas to eliminate because of cost factor, the laundry would be transferred to the less convenient basement or the less desirable kitchen area.

They would like a formal dining room if they can afford it. It need not be large. They want it so they can teach the children manners. They must learn the distinction between eating and dining.

If they can't afford a separate dining room, then most of them will accept an "ell" of the living room. If this is too costly, then the Family Room must take care of family meals and of special "manners teaching" meals.

A two-car garage is preferred, although in the South, carports are considered adequate. If a two-car garage can't be afforded, a one-car garage will do. If the budget is really tight, the garage is the first area to be eliminated. Most women want storage cabinets or space for lawn mowers, garden tools, etc., connected with the carport or garage.

In the quiet area they would place bedrooms, the den, and the parlor living room. They want the two areas separated by halls, closets and similar noise-reducing barriers.

There was unanimous agreement on a minimum of three bedrooms. If the family had more money to spend, a den in addition to three bedrooms would be desirable. If money was limited, most would like the third bedroom finished as a den.

There was general agreement that two closets at least 5 feet long were needed in the parent's room and one in each of the other bedrooms.

They want planned storage for articles in daily and periodic use located conveniently near the places of most frequent use.

With a three bedroom house a three fixture bath in addition to the half bath at kitchen would be adequate for most. With a little more money they would like another lavatory in the main bath.

There was a preference for basements over a large area of the country. Apparently, this was based on a desire for assurance of adequate storage. Claimed substitutes for basement storage are not always fulfilled. Also, apparently, there is a strong belief that basements keep houses warmer.

Attics are generally recognized as keeping the house cooler. There is still a strong desire for attics for this reason only.

Location of Rooms

With regard to location of living areas, in general they want the kitchen facing the rear yard so they can supervise the children at play. They prefer the kitchen facing in a southerly direction. They want the kitchen to be bright.

It's bad enough to have to get up and get breakfast. Why have to do it in a dreary room facing north?

The living room is all right facing north. It gets its most frequent use in the evening. Facing north, the sun won't fade rugs, furniture and draperies.

Considered individually, none of these things are new. There have been 3 bedroom houses; there have been Family Rooms, and 1/2 baths. What is new is the way in which the various parts are situated and interrelated. It is the total arrangement of the house, whether on one floor, a split level or in two stories, which gives a significant new concept.

Exteriors

They recognize that the exterior should be in harmony with the interior. If the interior is designed and built for informal living, the exterior should not aspire to any formal expressions of architecture either past or present.

This does not mean that the house is to be formless. They do want an honest expression of the functions the house is expected to perform. They want harmony in the window sizes and shapes. They have definite ideas about the shapes of roofs, based on function. In general they want pitched roofs with eaves overhang.

They do not want a turn-key job, with no opportunity for individual choices and expressions in colors, wall-papers, equipment, etc. They do not want standardized planting. They want an opportunity left to shape the environment both interior and exterior in which they live and grow.

It seems to me that what came out of this Women's Congress on Housing was something very simple. *It is family living values that the women were talking about first* and houses indirectly, only secondary, and because these living values do not change, only form and design change.

In the next issue of Plan, I will outline more specifically the discussions involving the Middle Atlantic area, and point out what women would like to have in neighborhood planning, and what they do *not* want in their homes for tomorrow.

What Women Want in Floor Plans Traffic Flow and Size of Rooms in Low Cost Homes of Tomorrow



Housing and Home Finance Agency
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MRS. FREDERICK A. VANDENBERGH, JR.

The women delegates from Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia and Pennsylvania found to their delight that they were on the whole in agreement with the women delegates from all over the country in wanting their homes planned with more basic space, fewer frills and with preplanning for future growth: to keep pace with the needs of a growing family. Having decided upon the essential rooms which they wanted in their house and the functions which they should serve as outlined in the first article the women turned to the problem of deciding just how much of the space available to them in the \$10,000 price range should be allotted to each room and what equipment they would need as a basic minimum for the smooth operation of the home.

Kitchen, the First Step

Starting with the kitchen-family room the group took up first the problem of the actual working area. They were agreed that the kitchen should be planned primarily for ease of food preparation. What equipment did they consider essential? In answering this question the group followed one of the many excellently planned questionnaires provided by Miss Heath and her staff, (from Housing and Home Finance Administration) which listed a group of 15 appliances generally used and asked the women to grade them as, (a) to be provided by the builder, (b) to have space left for their future addition, (c) luxuries, pure and simple. The women from the Middle Atlantic area graded the appliances as follows:

Choose Own Appliances

During the discussion which led the group to make these decisions, (for the most part unanimous), it became apparent that the women felt that too much money had been spent in the past on gadgets for the kitchen. . . . money which they wanted to spend on more space and on preplanning to allow for future improvements. Our group of women wanted the builder to provide only two kitchen appliances, namely, the kitchen range, (and they specified a floor type range), and an exhaust fan. The point which they were all making here is that the housewife wants to choose her own appliances in her own time. She then has reliable warranties and contacts for future servicing. Further, as one of the group expressed it, "Why pay interest on appliances for twenty years?" And to return to the basic concept which emerged from the discussions, the housewife, as represented at the congress, wants to spend her money first of all on the house itself so that she can obtain the greatest possible space and thereby have a house large enough to warrant the addition of improvements as she can afford them.

Adequate Wiring a Must

For those reasons great emphasis was placed on the need for planning not only adequate space for all of the labor saving appliances on the market, but also adequate wiring to carry such appliances safely. The group asked their long-suffering architect, Mr. Simpson, to tell them just how much wall and floor space would be needed in the kitchen area not only for the essential range and refrigerator, but also for the longed-for dish washer and the work surfaces and closet space necessary for the easy preparation of food. Translated into reality the minimum space required to fulfill their desires was an area 9 by 12 feet.

Family Area

Next the group discussed the family area of the kitchen-family room. In the discussions of the amount of space needed for this room another recurrent theme of the congress emerged forcibly. The women wanted space for a specific purpose; they wanted to be able to live graciously in their homes. The group found that generally they did not like bars in their kitchens and had no desire

(continued on page 52)

provided by builder leave space luxury

1. floor type range	.....X
2. wall oven	.....X
3. kitchen exhaust fan	.....X
4. refrigerator	.....X
5. deep freeze	.....X
6. garbage disposal	.....X
7. laundry tubs	.....X
8. automatic washer	.....X
9. automatic dryer	.....X
10. dish washer	.....X
11. attic vent fan	.....X
12. electric mixer	.....X
13. toaster	.....X
14. vacuum cleaner	.....X
15. air-conditioning unit	.....X

WHAT WOMEN WANT IN LOW COST HOMES OF TOMORROW

(continued from page 11)

to have their families perched on stools to eat. They wanted space in the family end of the room for a table at which at least six persons might sit down to meals far enough from the kitchen stove and sink for comfort and pleasure. As they contemplated the numerous activities to be housed here, from games to homework, sewing and dining and watching TV they decided that this minimum area should be at least 10 by 12 feet. It was evident from the discussion of the type of partitioning which should be used between the two parts of the family-kitchen room that there is a great need for flexibility in meeting the problem. The women wanted not only to be able to open up the entire 19 by 12 foot area when they so desired, but also to be able to separate it into two distinct rooms as well. For this reason double doors and sliding panels and screens were suggested as well as the more usual counters with storage space.

Noise Reduction

So many activities were to be combined in the family room that the problem of noise and the need to control it in a small house came very naturally to the fore. The women felt that they would like to have acoustical tile ceilings wherever it was feasible. More than any other room in the house the family room needed an acoustical tile ceiling, but its proximity to the cooking area raised doubts as to the practicability of its use there. The group voiced the hope that the building industry would invent a washable sound proof ceiling material in the near future so that the kitchen family room could be a quieter room in which to work and play. From the family room, we turned to the utility and mud room, the other major work room of the house. This room was to serve four main purposes; it was to house the heaters, contain the laundry, contain as much storage

space for garden garments and toys and equipment as possible and be the family entrance of the home. Mr. Simpson, our always helpful architect advised that a space at least 3 by 6 feet must be set aside for the heaters.

Heating Preferences— Air Conditioning

The women were asked if they had any preference as to the type of heating they wanted for the house. The majority clearly preferred base-board radiation to the floor radiant heat, but upon being advised that the former was three times as expensive as the latter, they settled for hot water or steam heat as the first choice *on condition that radiators be recessed to improve the looks of the rooms.* The group did not want hot air heating and were quite willing to forego the benefits of air conditioning, which they considered a luxury anyway, in order to escape it. The group agreed that the laundry tubs which they felt the builder should provide, belonged in the utility room. Here they also wanted space for an automatic washing machine and a possible future dryer. Again they stressed the need for wiring adequate for all such future loads.

If possible they wanted the half bath to open into this room so that mud might be washed off instead of being tracked through the house. For the remaining space they asked for shelves and more shelves for storage. Nor did they stop here. They wanted this family entrance to be an attractive one, not just any old back door. Throughout all of the discussions the group never lost sight of the fact that they wanted their homes to be attractive and gracious as well as utilitarian. They did not feel that the two are necessarily incompatible. Even a laundry can be a pleasant place in which to work, if well planned. Once again Mr. Simpson helped the group to be realistic in that phase of house planning and advised that for this multipurpose utility room a minimum space of six by twelve feet would be needed.

Gracious Living Rooms

Having decided upon the amount of space which they would need in order to do the house-work easily and well, the women of the Middle Atlantic area turned to the question of how much of the remaining space available in a \$10,000 house could be spared from the business of sleeping for the living room which all desired so strongly as an adult haven. While everyone wanted as large a living-room as possible each felt that the prime requisite of this room was that it should be a quiet room placed away from the traffic patterns and work areas of the house. For this reason the group did not want the front door of the house to open directly into the living-room and decided to give up at least a space 3'6" square to an entrance foyer separated from the living-room itself, if not by a ceiling high partition, at least by some shoulder high partitioning or shelf arrangement. It was suggested that this was a place where glass brick or one of the new wall materials might be used effectively. A strip 3'6" (like a hall way), carried the width of the living room would be even more effective and would carry the traffic from the front door to the kitchen and bedroom areas without crossing the living room. As the group had already decided that they wanted this house to contain three double bedrooms the ultimate size of the living room was not a matter of choice so long as the house was kept within the \$10,000 price range. Mr. Simpson calculated that in order to keep the three bedrooms, the necessary closet and hall space and the full bath the size of the living room could not exceed 12 by 15 feet. With this the group was content so long as the industry realized the importance of placing the room to ensure that it should be far enough from the noise and work areas of the house for real relaxation and adult enjoyment.

As this room was to be the center around which they would build the

new pattern of more gracious living, for which they all expressed a desire, the women wanted it to be a beautiful room. In this room their children would learn to respect the rights of others by learning to respect the rights of their parents. They would learn to behave in a mannerly way and have an opportunity to enjoy beauty.

Taste of Owner Important

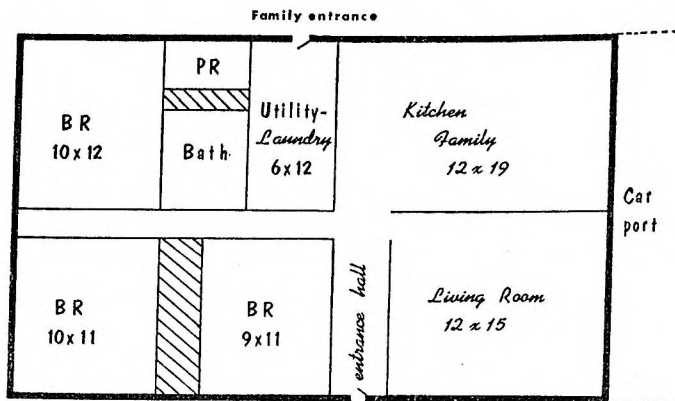
To give the room more spaciousness it was suggested that a cathedral ceiling be used here. The group rejected all floor to ceiling windows as dangerous and wanted picture windows only where the view was adequate, and never on the street side of the house. It was felt that ventilation should not be sacrificed to glass.

In the matter of lighting ceiling lights were not popular, and all expressed a wish for more base board outlets some of which might be controlled from switches on the wall at the entrance to the room. As for the color of the walls and woodwork to be used, the women all expressed the hope that the builder would leave the choice up to the prospective owner. They felt that their homes should be an expression of their own taste and should be decorated to suit them. They wanted their homes to have some individuality and not be carbon copies of all of the homes in the neighborhood.

Bedrooms and Windows

There remained only the bedrooms to be fitted for size, and Mr. Simpson again advised the group of the realities of square footage in relation to building costs for the Middle Atlantic area. There was enough space left in the house for the three double bedrooms the group considered necessary: one to be the master bedroom 10 to 12 feet, the other two to be 10 by 11 ft. and 9 by 11 ft. respectively.

Although the budget with which the delegates were working left them very little choice as to the size of the bedrooms the women were asked to state their preferences in relation to the height of the bedroom windows and the kind of bedroom lighting.



(Editor's Note: This is not a Scale Floor Plan, nor is it supposed to be—it is merely an informal sketch showing general room arrangement and flow of house traffic.

This group felt that high bedroom windows not only added nothing, but were a fire hazard in bedrooms and gave less adequate ventilation than standard height windows. Nor, as it was pointed out, was it possible to sit below a high window and look out.

They voiced a plea for window frames requiring little upkeep and made of materials of lasting quality. Screens they decided were a must, a basic health necessity and should be provided by the builder. Storm windows, on the other hand, while desirable were considered a luxury to be added by the home owner as he was able. As in the living room, ceiling lights were not popular and there was a demand for outlets on at least 3 of the 4 walls of each bedroom with one of these to be controlled from a wall switch unless wall brackets with a wall switch were also used.

Storage Closets

For the many closets which the group insisted were essential, plus the hall space necessary to properly protect the living-room from becoming a glorified hall, Mr. Simpson calculated that 247 square feet would be required. The total square footage of the Middle Atlantic Area house came to about 1150 sq. ft. This house was the lowest in square footage of any planned at the Congress and the group was very proud

of having most nearly answered the challenge of the Housing and Home Finance Agency.

The group recognized a need for space to store all outside equipment and some area for Father's workshop. The majority favored a basement for this purpose, but Mr. Simpson warned that unless the ground made split level construction possible it might not be practical to have a basement because of the high cost involved in excavations. For such areas the garage must be planned with some storage space for heavy gardening tools, bicycles, etc.

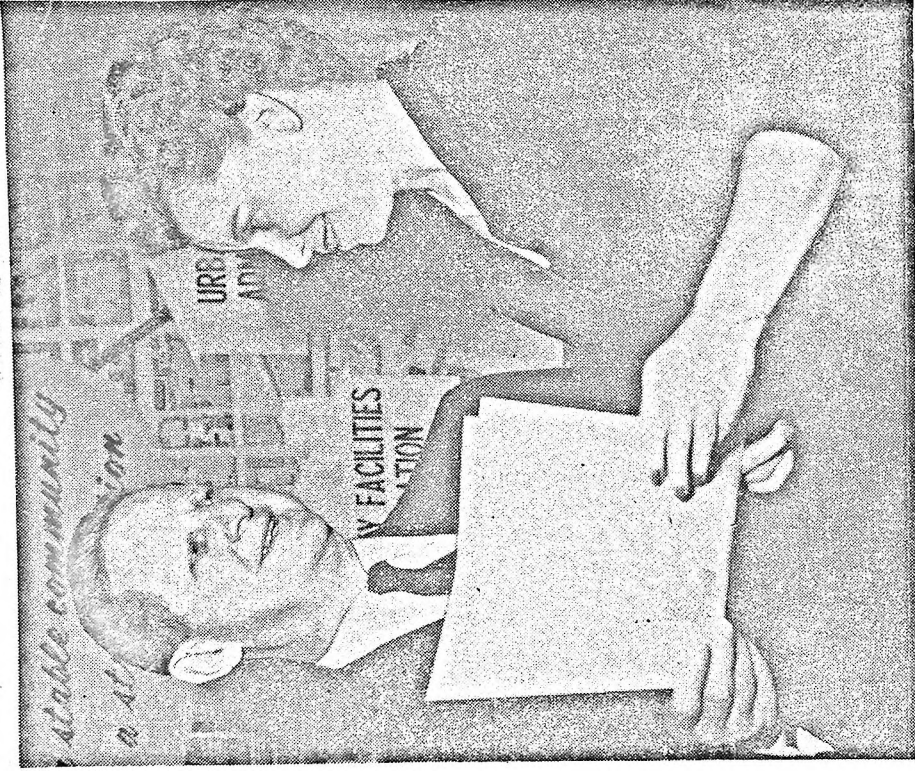
As step by step decisions were made by our group, Mr. Simpson drew the general plan of the house so that we could more easily visualize what we were building. This general plan is in no sense a blue print for a specific house. It is rather a guide to the arrangement, or floor plan, of the rooms which we all felt would be essential to a happy and well run home.

Community Planning

After discussing the interior of the house and its relation to the family, the Congress turned to a study of the exterior of the house and its relation to the community. In another article I will outline how the women of the Middle Atlantic area want their homes to look and be as part of the community to meet the outside world.

**HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.**

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



AT HOUSING CONFERENCE—Mr. Albert M. Cole, administrator, and Miss Anna-Heath, assistant administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, confer at the opening session of the Women's Congress on Housing yesterday at the Washington Hotel.—Star Staff Photo.

TODAY'S HOME

Storage Room a Must, Homemakers Say

By MARY L. VAUGHAN
Closets, closets, and more storage space are what Mrs. Homemaker, U. S. A., wants in a house.

Papa's pocketbook and his living quarters also rate high, with their children's daily home comforts tied into family desires in American dwellings.

These viewpoints are in the forefront with 100 homemakers attending a Federal Housing Administration's Women's Congress in the Washington Hotel through tomorrow.

The women, from divers brooks and crannies of the Nation, are here at the invitation of FHA Administrator Albert M. Cole, to tell Uncle Sam the essentials in home-building.

Dream Houses

They sat down yesterday in the Washington Hotel, 10 to a table divided by geographic location, and poured out their ideas on dream homes. Seated with them to speed the project were an FHA architect, blackbook for drawing floor plans, notebooks and a proposed \$10,000 budget limit.

Adding impetus earlier in the day was Housing Administrator Cole whose department dreamed up the conference idea and selected the delegates by their letters.

"A few people—a few men, of course—think this will serve no purpose, that we should go blindly ahead with no concern about what the managers of our homes think or want," he told the women. "I don't think we should. And several thought sand American housewives have written me they don't think so either. They want to be heard and they should be heard. You are here to speak for them and for many, many more."

President Eisenhower added his commendation in a message read by Miss Annabelle Heath, assistant housing administrator.

In part, he wrote: "When the home is involved, no point of view can be more important than that of the homemaker. You are experts in your own right, and I am delighted that your views are being brought to bear."

Mother's and grandmother's points of view were clearly apparent on the topic of storage space.

Table No. 2, representing Lower New York and New Jersey presented an opinion seconded by all.

"Comfortable living is most essential," Mrs. Janet Shair, spokesman, stressed. "We are most interested in getting rid of the iron-iron. We don't want too many built-in gadgets. Out with wall ovens and air conditioners."

"What we want," she reported is more storage space than you can imagine—in the attic, the basement, in the garage. So much," she quipped, "until you might wonder what is going to happen under the bed."

Mrs. Everett Sugarbaker, attractive mother of 10 from Missouri, echoed the space plea in behalf of her table's delegates from Arizona, Arkansas, Southern California, New Mexico and Texas. "We need more and more storage space," she said. "Don't give us those FHA 3' by 5' closets. Don't even make that a minimum."

Everyone wanted basements with the exception of two tables representing Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Arizona, Arkansas, Southern California, New Mexico and Texas. But they asked that the same space

be utilized cost-wise for an extra family room on the ground floor.

When yesterday's session came to a close the consensus of opinion called for:

A back door opening on a utility room with separate storage space for children's wearing and play gear, plus a nearby half bath.

Separate dining rooms. "We want to put the whole family at the table as a family unit. Our feeling is to preserve the family as a unit where they can gather about the table in a place of serenity."

Table No. 4, representing several Southern States, didn't, by their own admission, "take matters up as fast as others, but we were thorough."

Dining Rooms

This group wanted a definite space set aside for a dining room where parents "could teach children good manners graciously in a quiet atmosphere."

In every part of the Nation the homemakers dispensed with large kitchens. What they want, according to numerous reports was a workable space, with, if funds would allow, an area with "snack bar space" apart from the separate dining room.

The kitchen-dining room has lost out with the women. So has the built-in major appliances such as deep freezers, garbage disposals, air conditioning units, and wall ovens; if it means sacrificing space in the overall cost.

Today's agenda will emphasize a discussion of "Neighborhood and Community Planning."

Chairmen Named For Benefit At Embassy

Committee chairmen for the Salvation Army Auxiliary's annual garden party have been announced by Mrs. William Pope Anderson III, president. The event will take place on May 19 from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Japanese Embassy.

The chairmen are as follows: Mrs. John W. Kern and Mrs. John F. Lillard, executive chairmen of the day;

Mrs. James MacPherson, radio and TV; Mrs. Francis G. Ulen; publicity, Miss Jean O'Brien, treasurer; Mrs. Joseph Battley, celebrities; Mrs. Windsor DeMaline, garden shop; Mrs. Alfred Chandler, fortunes; Mrs. James W. Butler, white elephants; and Mrs. Garfield Kass, auction.

Still others are Mrs. Benjamin Y. Martin, dolls and clowns; Mrs. Lloyd Bauman, cakes; Mrs. Jess Bryan Bennett, glamour; Mrs. John W. Kern III, tea house; Mrs. H. Holmes Vogel, candy; Mrs. Gordon Kinney, fabrics and

Chorus to Sing At Marine Base

The Washington Opera Guild Chorus repeated last evening for the Quantico Marine Base Hospital patients, the concert they recently presented at Walter Reed Main Auditorium.

The concert is under the sponsorship of the American Red Cross and featured the work of Donis Conn, Jimmie Smith and Miss Zoe Calevas. Also on the program will be a solo sung by Mr. Bill Pruitt and a duet by Mrs. Helen Nash and her daughter Eleanor.

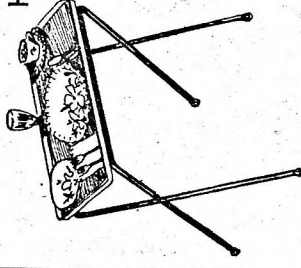
Mrs. Alliman To Be Hostess

Mrs. Frederick Lee Alliman was to be hostess for the National Speech Clinic Foundation's annual meeting and Founder's Day tea today at her home, 2325 Wyoming avenue N.W.

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Beautiful set of 4 tables with handy all-metal storage rack, finished attractively in matte black. Rack takes up a minimum of space in hall or closet, folds flat when tables are in use. These all-steel tables are 13"x20" and 24" high. Contemporary design on background colors of green, gold or white. Set of 4 19.95.



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Calico prints . . . tiny hearts . . . a ring of rickrack here, a little chin bow there . . . here are cottons with a quaintness, a scrubbed-up young and fancy freeness: you're going to love. And part of the fun: is the miles and miles of skirt . . . **whirling, twirling, swirling!** You've one petticoat to begin with, add more-more-more layers of frosty whiteness or color, layers of ruffles and swirl.

Designed by Maggi, Maid of Lucerne . . . and we invite you to see the whole collection! Fun dresses!

Above, **Tiny patterned white prints** on yards of gold, lilac or navy cotton; little heart-shaped buttons parade the white pique tab. Sizes 7 to 13. **\$14.99**

Left, **Crisp white calico print** on a great swirl of coral blue, black or red cotton ringed with rickrack and white pique. Sizes 7 to 13. **\$17.99**

Consumer Standpoint**Homemakers' Ideas Form Basis of Housing Revision**

By Robert F. Morison

United Press

Government housing agencies—and later private industry—soon will have for the first time a fairly complete idea of what the American housewife wants in her house.

That information is being assembled from suggestions made during the women's housing congress held here last month under the sponsorship of the Housing and Home Finance agency.

Information was gathered from the 103 ladies. When it is organized, the Government's housing agencies—particularly the Federal Housing Administration—will know much more about building from the consumer standpoint.

Until now, the bulk of information available on housing came from architects, builders and other experts in the field.

The homemaker information comes at a particularly opportune time for FHA.

That agency, which runs the Government's home mortgage insurance program, is in the process of revising and consolidating its so-called "minimum property requirements" as a master guide for FHA operations. This will for the first time give all of the various minimum standards in construction, quality and location to guide field offices in insuring home mortgages. Since the agency began operations in 1935 such standards have been contained in as many as 26 separate books covering various parts of the country.

Originally, the revision and compilation was to have been finished last month, but it turned out to be a bigger job than anticipated.

The delay, officials say, is not due to the women's housing congress. However, the task force working on the revision is anxious to look over the ladies' suggestions and ideas.

The congress featured ideas on holding down costs while at the same time putting in more features of importance to the housewife.

At first the ladies' wishes outran their economy, but by whittling down a little here and a little there, they were able to fit their proposals to the

\$10,000-\$15,000 price range. This bracket straddles the anticipated average price of homes this year.

Among the items sacrificed were garages, separate dining rooms, dens and utility rooms. They insisted, however on three bedrooms, one-and-one-half bathrooms, plenty of closet and storage space and a family room.

Generally they favored only the essential appliances—stoves and refrigerators—preferring to sacrifice frills for more space. They figured they could add to the gadget department later.

FHA's minimum property requirements are chiefly concerned with basic problems of housing, such as durable materials, quality of workmanship and other factors that tend to affect the value of the house as an investment.

"What we're interested in," one FHA official explained, "is to make sure that in 30 years the house isn't on the trash heap."

But FHA experts also are concerned with the ladies' viewpoints because at least indirectly their wants will be incorporated in future houses put up by builders and architects. The Government will want to make sure any changes, particularly if they are of a basic nature, are in line with standards.

Officials were not able to say when FHA will finish compiling the results of the women's housing congress. As soon as it does, the results will be turned over to both FHA and interested segments of the homebuilding industry.

Golden Tidelands

A dramatic story of the appreciation of land values is reported by Realtor Grace Peregó of San Francisco. In 1943, 1000 acres of East San Rafael tidelands sold for \$1000. Realtor Peregó recently negotiated the sale of the same property for \$1,000,000. Part of the increase is attributed to the completion of the San Rafael-Richmond bridge and a six-lane highway that fronts on the property for 4200 feet.

Product Previews



More than 150 Washington area builders, architects and engineers attended open house last week at Cushwa Brick and Building Supply Company's new General Electric Heating and Air Conditioning division in Rosslyn, Va. Pointing out features of a new GE home air-conditioning unit is Stephen Schuyler, manager of Cushwa's heating and air-conditioning division, to Bernard S. Bernard, GE sales representative, and Edward Pierce, GE manager, of sales development.

By Rader Winget

NEW YORK (AP)—Things just aren't what they seem this week in new products.

People are using teardrops for door knobs, windshield wipers wired for water, blackboards that roll into a tube, German tooth brushes with a built-in mintflavor, and British perfume that smells like old leather.

Door knobs are not only being built as crystal teardrops, but they also are being made to look like silver nuggets, esutcheons, and a rose. It is all an effort by Yale & Towne Mfg. Co. to make ordinary door knobs spectacular. They still are used to open doors the same old way.

A fellow in Texas is making windshield wiper that shoots spray of water out of the wiper holder right on to the

ounces for 50 feet, has a seamless inner tube of rubber encased in a braided sheath of rayon tire cord and covered finally by a Du Pont neoprene rubber jacket. It has a 600-pound burst strength and can be shut off at the nozzle on the hottest summer day. It doesn't get stiff at below zero temperatures.

You can quit trying to spin revolving doors too fast now. They have brakes. Twelve rpm. That's all. Made by International Steel Co. of Evansville, Ind.

Ken

APR 26

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Shuns Term "Modernistic" for the Administration

Distaff Congress Disagrees on Design

By Estelle Jackson

THE DREAM house of tomorrow may have one or two stories, and it may be "traditional" or "contemporary"—according to delegates to the Women's Congress on Housing, who just couldn't agree at yesterday's session.

Most delegates favored a one-story home with an exterior mingling traditional and contemporary designs. But a highly vocal minority called for two stories "to cut costs."

Ladies at the Washington Hotel session shunned the term "modernistic."

"We want our homes cozy and not cold," protested discussion leader Mrs. Mary Thinger of Topeka, Kan.

MRS. Rosalie Ehart of Miami, Fla., reported her discussion group thought minimum standards of the Federal Housing Administration were

too low. "We don't get the right kind of lumber, and poor quality stucco," she declared.

Discussion leader Mrs. Grant Hess of Boise, Idaho, made a plea for more individuality in home design.

"Let's have no more developments with houses looking like peas in a pod," she said.

Delegates turned thumbs down on picture windows without views—declaring they reduced privacy, were hard to wash and expensive to equip with storm windows.

They asked for houses convenient to schools, shopping centers, churches and places of employment (although the New England group was willing to let their husbands spend an hour traveling to work).

"NO BACK fences," was the decision of one group, because they "didn't keep the children in anyway."

"As soon as my kids were 18 months old they could climb any fence," commented Mrs. James J. Duffy of Allentown, Pa.

Other delegates called for "at least seven electrical outlets in the kitchen" and "movable walls in sensible places."

SOCIAL intervals in yesterday's session included a visit to the White House, where delegates were greeted personally by Mrs. Eisenhower; a luncheon given by the National Association of Real Estate Boards, and a reception and buffet supper at the National Housing Center.

Members of the Congress have been putting in eight-hour-plans days. When their luncheon ran overtime yesterday, HHFA Assistant Administrator Annabelle Heath announced yesterday's session would be prolonged one hour. Delegates will also report an hour early today—at 9 a. m.—to complete discussions on schedule.

Probable holders of long-distance records for miles traveled to the Congress are Mrs. Mason D. McQuiston of Salem, Ore., and Mrs. R. H. Bell of Seattle, Wash. Like all delegates, they're paid \$12 a day expenses plus transportation costs.

The young housewives—both mothers of small children—are active and enthusiastic members of a national cross-section group at the Congress. Both say "it's a job that's fun."

Mrs. Everett Sugarbaker of Jefferson City, Mo., left 10 children and a physician husband behind in her 13-room house when she came to the Congress as a discussion leader.

"My older children voted that I go," the tall, attractive Missourian said, "and when I called they said everything was getting along fine—and the baby was so good."



LONG DISTANCE DELEGATES to the Women's Congress on Housing, are Mrs. R. H. Bell of Seattle, Wash., and Mrs. Mason D. McQuiston, who traveled cross-

country for the 100-woman meeting at the Washington Hotel. The 2½ day session concludes today.

By Norman Driscoll, Staff Photographer

a to Fold

show. Mme. Morgenstierne's portrait, done 20 years ago in her native Norwegian ski costume, was among those being admired by Mrs. Myron Cowen and the Australian Ambassador, Sir Percy Spender. The artist is currently doing one of Ambassador Morgenstierne.

Daniel Bell was pointing out the portrait of a friend, Judge Charles Marbury to the South African Ambassador and Mrs. J. E. Holloway. Mrs. Richard Zantinger was looking over a portrait of herself and her daughter painted in 1936.

Party Time:

Mrs. Donald R. Van Sickler and her younger daughter, Priscilla Loyal Treat Van Sickler of Laurel, Fla., formerly of Washington, will entertain at tea on Friday at the Shoreham.

Colonel Van Sickler, USA, retired, and Mrs. Van Sickler will sail May 2 on the "Berlin" for Germany to attend the wedding of their son, Robert T. Van Sickler and Gertrud Stecher in Mannheim-Almenhof.

Embassy Row:

THE retiring Chinese Ambassador and Mme. Wellington Koo have sent out invitations for a farewell reception on



PRETTY HATS AND LIVELY CONVERSATION at the reception for the new Secretary General of the Organization of American States and Senora de Mora, held last night at the Sheraton-Carlton Hotel, kept this trio of ladies intrigued. From left are Senora Louisa Himiob, wife of the

Charge d'Affaires of the Vojanin Peralta, wife of the M. Gabriel Lucio, wife of the Delegation.

Election Year Theme for Table Decor

Country Farmhouse

unch With

and Mrs. William F. Knowland, wife of the Senator from California.

Also joining the luncheon were Mrs. Homer Ferguson, wife of the Judge on the

Gallons of Government Prepared for Today

PILGRIMS on this, the first day of the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, will have the opportunity of drinking punch at Government House, Annapolis, between 3 and 6 p. m. The Governor and Mrs. McKeldin hope to be on hand most of the time to greet visitors.

The program says that tea will be served. But Mrs. McKeldin points out—"I hope nobody comes expecting TEA—as we always serve punch on these occasions."

Jr. sized check
summer

Washington Scene . . .

Wash. Post, 4/30/56

By George Dixon

Home Is Where the Stove Is

HOUSING Administrator Albert M. Cole brought 103 assorted housewives to Washington the other day to tell him what they thought was wrong with American homes. They professed to be up to date, but 77 of them talked like their grandmothers. They said the homes of today don't have big enough kitchens.



Dixon

They acted as if they were coming up with something radical and brand new when they said the kitchen should be the biggest room in the house. The only thing I can say is that many of them must be younger than they look. I can remember when the kitchen not only was the biggest room in the house but the only one that had any day-to-day usage.

We didn't have a living room, and the parlor was opened only when the

preacher called. We had a rather hungry preacher, so the parlor got a workout every few weeks—until we got new horsehair furniture, and the preacher threw his Sunday chicken dinner business to other parishioners who had less cactus-like upholstery.

There was a trend away from the kitchen in the years that followed, with emphasis on such homespun things as bars and rumpus rooms. Some of the more beastly had dens. But the 103 housewives, who won the free trips here at Government expense because they wrote the best letters criticizing today's homes, voted more than 3 to 1 for a back-to-the-kitchen movement.

WASHINGTON bureaucrats always strives to be piquant, so the griping wives were turned over to a spinster. Miss Annabelle Heath, Assistant Housing Administrator, welcomed them with a wide smile which, within 24 hours, congealed into a frozen grimace. Miss Heath, a snappy redhead who must be staying single on purpose, wound up

the ordeal looking as if she thought a lovely solution to the housing problem would be to lock the housewives in the homes they are criticizing and set fire to them.

THE HOME-HATING home-lovers were divided into geographical groups. I approached the New England table in time to hear this question put to a matron: "Why can't you put the work table for your husband in the children's rumpus room?" She replied: "I do not desire to see my children brutally murdered."

The ladies overflowed with such architect trade jargon as "traffic lanes," translated as most-used routes into, and out of, the house; and "mud rooms," meaning decontamination chambers for the kids and the old man so they wouldn't track so much of the outdoors indoors.

But here's what startled me most: More than 80 per cent of the housewives declared they don't care what a house looks like from the outside if it is livable inside!

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t pocket or purse

raw... the good taste

es through without

uffing and puffing

Wash. Post April 29, 1956

Modern Bath A 'Boo-boo,' Housewife Says

By Francis Stillely

NEW YORK (AP)—A suburban New York housewife has declared war on the so-called modern bathroom.

"It is still a relic of the pre-historic age," averred Mrs. W. J. Moore of Pelham Manor.

She has lots of ideas for improvements, and she carried them before a women's congress on housing in Washington April 23-25.

"The great American boo-boo is the bathroom," she declared.

"While hordes of experts have been fussing with the kitchen, poor old mama is still hanging over the bathtub bathing her children in about the same position as her ancestors beating clothes on rocks.

"I'm also sick of the fact that nobody ever built a towel rack that you could dry a towel on.

"The towel rack is built for a folded towel, so what do you do with your towel after using it? You fold it up neatly so you'll have a nice, soggy towel for your next bath—or you spread it out on the radiator.

"Another thing: Now that they have invented all these miracle fabrics, we're back to washing by hand. And where do we wash? We wash in the bathroom. What do we do with wet clothes?

"We arrange them in a nice thicket on the shower curtain rod so that papa can invent a few new cusswords every morning when he tries to take a shower."

Mrs. Moore, who is "35 and proud of it," has a boy of 12, a daughter 9 and twin sons

of 10 months; her husband is an attorney here.

"The fact that babies have to be bathed every morning has been entirely overlooked by everybody who builds houses."

What can be done?

"I think the bathtub should be put up higher. All that storage space underneath could be used for towels and wash-clothes."

Wet washables? "Cabinets built into the wall, with sliding doors, containing plastic rods on which to hang the clothes."

A furthermore, on the subject of baby's bath: "I'm for a big, wide, deep basin that you could bathe a baby in, right in the bathroom."

"I feel somebody else will take care of other rooms. I've got to be the champion of the bathroom."

ill be a free-standing unit requiring no elaborate or expensive installation; underneath will be a drawer-type freezer. The kitchen will also feature automatic dispensers of ice water, ice cubes and crushed ice. Pots and pans will have hermetically controlled heating elements that can be plugged in anywhere. The television set will be a large, flat picture on the wall—

already 60 per cent accomplished today, Walker said.

"This then," the Schenectady, N. Y., executive added, "is the electrical home of tomorrow. It is built around an electric core. It will be lighted, heated, cleaned and cared for by electricity."

He said American leisure living presents a "unlimited market for electrical products and services."

Screen-Painting Time

The faces of screens should be painted so as to...

Principles,
Taxes & Insurance

30-YEAR
LOAD

and

Featuring ...

Quality

LOCATION

Just 10 Minutes From Pentagon and Naval Annex.

Quality
CONSTRUCTION

American Builder, p. 26,
June 1956.

AUTHOR

TITLE

Give us "Freedom from drudgery,"
10-3 housewives tell their

MAGAZINE

ideas for ideal home.

Building Industry Digest

PAGING (Inclusive)

~~1-1~~ 1

DATE

April 1956

ANNOTATION

Women's Congress on Housing

H-18
(11-50)

HOUSING REFERENCE CARD

HHFA
OA

AUTHOR

TITLE

MAGAZINE

PAGING (Inclusive)

DATE

ANNOTATION

H-18
(11-50)

HOUSING REFERENCE CARD

HHFA
6A

Housewives "Lobby" for
better homes.

Building Supply News

p152-156

June 1956

Women's Congress on Housing

AUTHOR

TITLE

*Calling all builders: what
women want in houses is*

MAGAZINE

*better design
architectural Record*

PAGING (Inclusive)

32

DATE

June 1956

ANNOTATION

H-18
(11-50)

HOUSING REFERENCE CARD

HHFA
OA

AUTHOR

The women's viewpoint

TITLE

I Women's Congress on Housing

MAGAZINE

Guide and Bulletin

PAGING (Inclusive)

6-8

DATE

Sept 1956

ANNOTATION

H-18

(11-50)

HOUSING REFERENCE CARD

HHFA
OA

AUTHOR

Heath, Annabelle

TITLE

What Mrs. America wants
in tomorrow's home

MAGAZINE

American Institute of
Architects

PAGING (Inclusive)

28-34

DATE

July 1956

ANNOTATION

Address before Building Research
Institute, Niagara Falls, Ontario

H-18

(11-50)

HOUSING REFERENCE CARD

HHFA

OA

WCH

Jl. of Housing, p. 243,
250, July 1956

Amer. Home, Aug. 1956

AUTHOR

WCH

TITLE

Calling all builders: what women want

MAGAZINE

Fin houses is better designs.

Arch. Record.

PAGING (Inclusive)

32

DATE

June 1956

ANNOTATION

H-18

(11-50)

HOUSING REFERENCE CARD

HHFA

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NAHB Correlator

p. 8-9, June 1956.

AUTHOR

TITLE

The women speak.

MAGAZINE

Business and Real Estate Trends
South Side Savings and Loan Assoc. ~~Cleveland~~

PAGING (Inclusive)

Cleveland, Ohio

DATE

3

June 1956

ANNOTATION

H-18
(11-50)

HOUSING REFERENCE CARD

HHFA
OA

Progressive Architecture,
p. 98, June 1956.

These women are talking
about you. House and Home,
p.138-140, June 1956.

Women's Congress on Housing
Headlines, Apr 30, 1956, p. 4
Journal of Housing, Apr, p. 122

Newspaper clippings.

Excerpts from letters.

Housing and Home Finance Agency
Office of the Administrator
LIBRARY

HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY
Office of the Administrator
Washington 25, D. C.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

Attached are random excerpts from letters written by American housewives to Housing and Home Finance Administrator Albert M. Cole, at his invitation, to provide a basis for a review of the homemaker's views and interest in the Woman's Congress on Housing. The conference of about 100 representative housewives from all parts of the country will be held in Washington on April 23, 24, and 25.

The excerpts quoted here represent assorted individual views and observations, and have not been selected to indicate what most housewives think or want. They are offered simply as a varied sampling of the letters that housewives have written in thus far, to accompany a general review of these letters contained in HHFA Press Release No. 980.

March 30, 1956

Neighborhood Planning

(Continued from page 52)

the curb should be broken at the time of the original building so that the added expense of breaking the curb at a future date, and the trouble of obtaining the necessary permits to do this, would be avoided. This decision was still another instance of the emphasis which the group placed upon advance planning in order to facilitate future additions and improvements to the home.

Just as the delegates had wanted a chance to pick the colors of the rooms inside of their homes and have homes which represented their own tastes, so they wanted an opportunity to select the shrubbery and plants to set off their homes on the outside. The only garden job which they wanted the builder to undertake without them was that of seeding the lawn, but they added, that the seeding should be done at the time of the year most propitious for success and not just whenever the builder should have finished with the house. It was suggested that builders should not leave debris around the foundations of the house nor left over materials and trash as fill, for plants do not grow from such soil. In this, as in all of our discussions, the women stressed the need for pre-planning in order that the beauty of their homes might be constantly increasing. The group emphasized their belief that it is never too soon to start building for beauty.

The women were asked by the Housing and Home Finance Agency to state whether or not they favored the use of fences. The majority opinion at Table Three was against the use of fences. The women felt that privacy was more esthetically and amicably obtained by the use of planting, and that children were better off trained to stay within their own yards when told to do so, for sooner or later all children learn to open gates and climb over fences. However, a minority wanted fences, particularly while the children were small, and so here again the group decided that the individual home owner should do just what was best for his family needs. In these discus-

sions on lot usage there was a constant emphasis of the opinion that the rights of others should always be respected. The women reiterated their belief that children should be taught to respect the property of their neighbors, just as in the home they had emphasized the need for children to learn to respect the rights of other members of the family. One of the most exhilarating aspects of the Women's Congress on Housing was the expression on the part of all groups covering the entire country, of a growing desire for homes designed to make it possible for the women of America to build towards more gracious living in a relaxed atmosphere favorable to the growth of courtesy and the appreciation of beauty in their children.

Have you ever stopped to consider the number of things you would have to do . . . and watch . . . and how much it would cost . . . if it weren't for the Association? Why not join today and better your industry.

The Agency also asked for specific opinions on the use of outside steps. The group agreed that outside steps should be wide and low, and that a handrail should be provided for three or more steps. Where more than five steps were used the group felt that a platform should be added. All, however, preferred grading to the use of steps, feeling that the former is safer and more attractive in appearance. On the question of the placing of power lines the majority preferred to have them placed at the rear of the lot.

After the women of the Middle Atlantic area had thoroughly discussed the use of the individual lots they turned to the problem of the entire neighborhood and how it could best be planned to benefit the homeowners living within its boundaries. They had touched on the subject of street layout during their discussions of the placing of the houses upon their lots and here again they decided that streets should curve to fit the terrain and should

be planned to avoid rigid patterns. For suburban living the group decided that a side walk on only one side of the street would be acceptable.

The proximity of the home to the school is a very important consideration for the prospective home-owner who is also a parent. The women felt that elementary schools should not be more than a mile from the subdivision, and that transportation by bus should be provided for small children living over ½ mile away. Bus rides to elementary schools, it was felt, should not take longer than thirty minutes. In the case of high schools the mileage limit was raised by the group to two miles, and the maximum ride to ¾ hour.

When discussing the question of the relative location of shopping areas and building developments the group re-emphasized their desire to live in 100% residential districts. They felt that most newly planned areas will use the big shopping centers which are being built to serve the suburban homes, but that a small fringe shopping area to provide drug store necessities and some groceries would be convenient. In brand new developments they wanted builders to plan space for churches and schools.

As in the case of home planning and lot usage planning the women of the Middle Atlantic area once more underscored the importance they placed on proper advance planning in order to facilitate the growth not only of individual homes but also of entire communities.

So the women of Table Three came to the end of their two and a half days of discussion to find that they were in complete agreement with the women from all over the country in wishing to express to the Housing and Home Finance Agency heart-felt thanks for the opportunity which had been given them to attend the Women's Congress on Housing. I should like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the Middle Atlantic Lumbermen's Association for having made it possible for me to have such a wonderful and stimulating experience.



Globe

The Most

By **LOUIS BERG**

This Week Movie Editor



It was raining in Madrid, and no cab was in sight and I was late for an appointment with Carmen Sevilla. Ever hear of her? I explained my predicament to the doorman of the Hotel Plaza, where I was staying. He marched me to the head of the ranks.

"Pardon, pardon! This gentleman must go first. He has an appointment with Carmen Sevilla."

And who is Carmen Sevilla? A 23-year-old Spanish cutie who might be the girl next door. She is a tiny, chatty, giggly girl, with a passion for dolls. And she is also Spain's leading movie star, and one of the world's finest Flamenco dancers. You will be seeing her pretty soon in a Hollywood picture made in Spain, appropriately titled "Flamenco."

Beautiful Strangers

I met Carmen during my recent trip around the world, a journey which turned out to be something of a busman's holiday. Every place I went, from Hong Kong to Berlin, I kept running into a sight familiar enough in Hollywood and New York — the glamorous beauty queen surrounded by a mob of autograph seekers. The only thing that was out of the ordinary about it all was that the movie queens I kept seeing were complete — and completely beautiful — strangers.

★ **FRANCE:** You'll see Mille. Page (left) in "Silken Affair"



Collignon

★ **GERMANY:** Reigning queen is Maria Schell . . .

Really Want

Continued

reasonable husband can dispute logic like that! Many architects say that a living room in the rear of the house, away from street noises, is more quiet and restful. It allows us to sit and gaze at our back gardens. But the typical housewife is thinking about that hectic morning when breakfast dishes remain unwashed and beds unmade. Unexpected guests arrive. Does she escort them through a hall where they catch a close-up of her littered kitchen before entering the picture-book living room? "Place our living room right by the front entrance," most women said.

Designers (male) often plan kitchens near the front door, so that housewives can see who's coming. Some women prefer that arrangement, but most desire a rear kitchen where they can watch their children playing in the yard.

Many suggestions these women made are so logical I wonder why they haven't been generally used before. For example, youngsters tramping into a clean house with muddy shoes and dirty hands have always plagued housewives. Why not a "mud room" or "decontamination chamber" by the back door, where children — and even fathers — can scrape off their dirt to avoid tracking it into the house proper? This room could have a floor drain so that all the dirt and mud could be washed away simply.

Not Gadgets, But Real Convenience

Most housewives probably spend at least an hour a week sorting clothes for the washer. Some clothes require hot water, others medium, others lukewarm. One woman proposed separate, built-in clothes hampers by the washer, so that clothes could be separated in the first place.

Another suggested a raised bathtub with a platform along the side. Think how much stooping that device would save mothers when they're washing the baby!

The average woman's knowledge about houses amazed our architects. She probably knows as much about insulation, heating plants and sewage disposal as her husband, and — some members of my staff will bet — a great deal more.

What kind of house does this well-informed Mrs. America want?

We received 103 different replies to that question, but the answers were all basically the same. She wants a home that is convenient to live in. She wants her family to enjoy their home together. She is not interested in a lot of "gadgets"; she believes that all space and equipment in the house must serve a real need. And — surprise — she cares less about how a house looks than how it works.

Here's what she wants in the all-American house:

- 1. A family "relaxation room."** The old-time big kitchen, the kind I remember as a boy in Kansas, evidently filled a need. To have the family together is important. And she wants that big "family room" right by the kitchen.
- 2. "Zoned living."** Almost all women agreed that every home needs a family zone where noise is permitted. Another area — including the formal living room — for quiet adult recreation — should be a definite quiet zone.
- 3. A plan that simplifies housework.** Despite dozens of new electrical helpers, the 20th-century mother still works longer than from "sun to sun." Our consultants were surprisingly good-natured about most defects in houses, but they showed understandable bitterness about planning errors which cause unnecessary work.

The typical homemaker prefers a "dead end" living room in one corner of the house, which children won't cross when going from one room to the other. She is enthusiastic about new time-saving equipment

like windows which are removed easily and washed inside the house. She feels that picture windows should be used only if they have a desirable view.

4. Plenty of storage space. Women believe that adequate closets are needed to keep a house neat. They want five feet of hanging closet space per person. The majority would gladly reduce the size of bedrooms, if necessary. In most sections housekeepers want basements, which provide a large, economical storage area. They also want a separate outside entrance to the basement to simplify carrying bulky items like lawn furniture in and out.

These demands are realistic. The women visualized what home-buyers could rightfully expect in a home with from 1,200 to 1,500 square feet of living space and costing from \$10,000 to \$15,000, exclusive of land and site improvements. By the way, all women wanted to do their own landscaping, except for sodding which they wanted the builder to provide. Our own FHA architects say that at that price range a house could be built in most parts of the U.S.

Such a house would have, at minimum, three bedrooms, one and one-half baths, ample closet and storage space, and a family room closely related to the kitchen area. It would lack the glamorous appliances and built-ins often shown in sample homes. There's a reason: The women told us they prefer it that way. They would rather spend available funds on more space and add equipment later.

All the functions American women want can be obtained at a budget price in the style of their choice — two-story homes, ranches, Cape Cods, split-levels.

The point is that America's women generally agree on the functions a house should have. They also want to express their own individuality.

A Texas lady wrote us: "Your housewives' Congress might well be the most constructive and beneficial idea of the year." At the very least, it proved that most of us men connected with housing should take a few lessons from the experts.

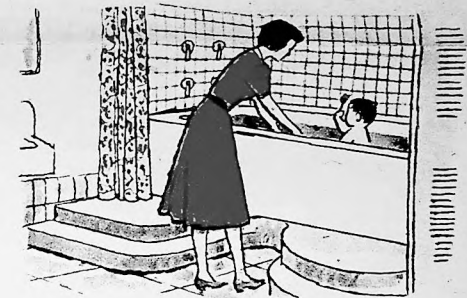
NEXT QUESTION: What can we do about our teacher shortage, a reader asks. Elder statesman Bernard M. Baruch comes up with an imaginative solution. Be sure and read "Let's Give 'Oscars' To Our Teachers!" in next week's issue.



"MUD ROOM": The kids — and Dad — can scrape their feet here, avoid tracking dirt through the house



MULTIPLE HAMPER: Individual built-in hampers enable wives to separate family clothes for washing

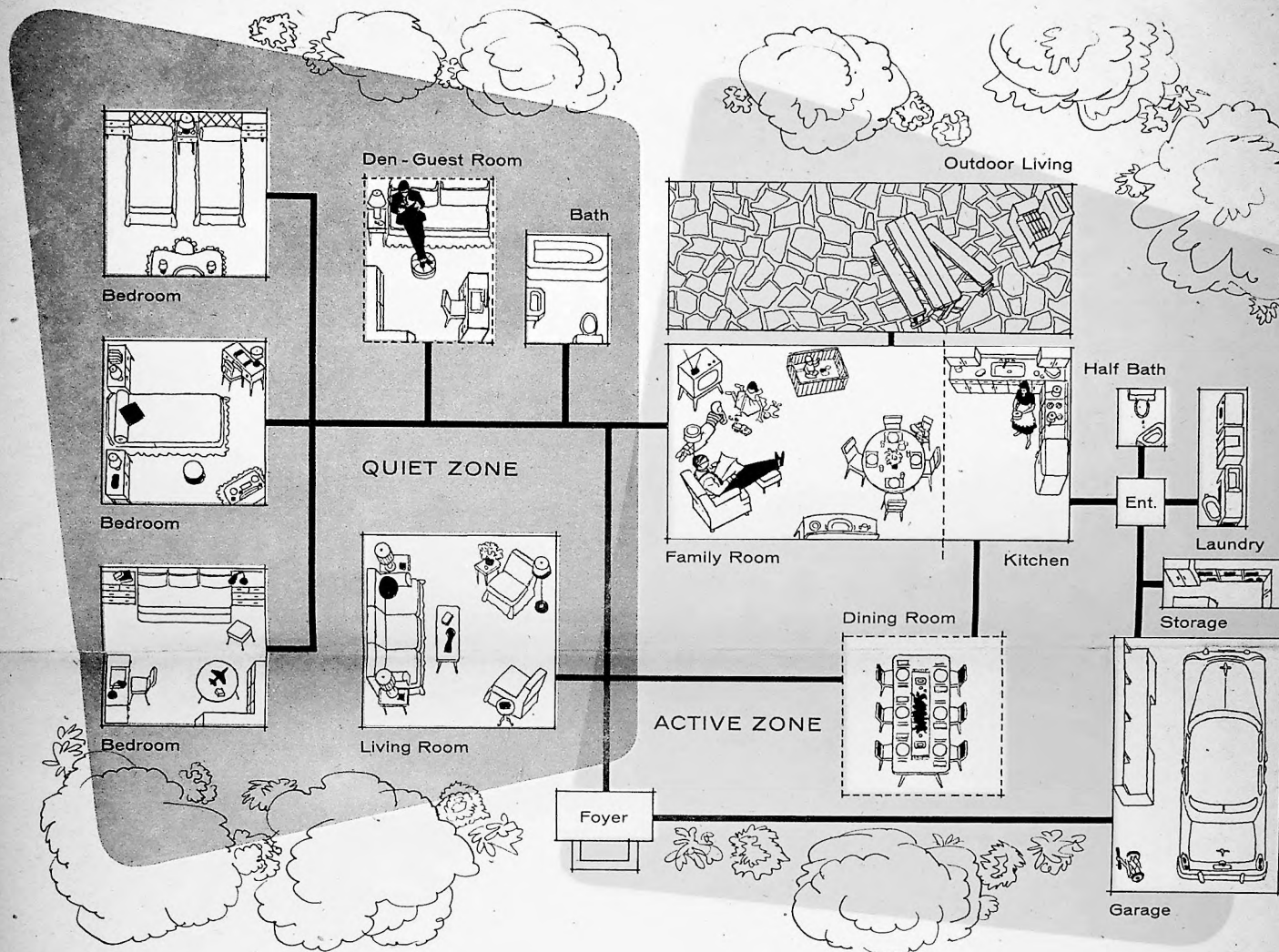


RAISED BATHTUB: Ingeniously designed, this could make it easier for Mother to give Junior a scrub



WASHINGTON: Annabelle Heath, Cole's assistant, who suggested conference, is seated third from left

The House American Women



RANCH HOUSE: Zones side by side



TWO-FLOOR: Upstairs is quiet area

The Housewife's Design

Diagram — which is not a floor plan — shows some of the features the majority of women want in a house:

1. Quiet area (blue) separated from family-living area (yellow).
2. Three bedrooms, one and a half baths.
3. Dead-end living room that will stay clean, close to the front entrance.
4. "Family room" next to kitchen, perhaps separated by folding partition.
5. Sunny kitchen — in rear, so visitors don't walk through.
6. Maximum storage space ("more space and fewer gadgets").
7. Eating space in kitchen or "family room."
8. Utility or laundry room.
9. Formal dining room, den-guest room are optional.
10. No landscaping by builder, except for lawn.
11. But trees to be saved wherever possible.

with generally common climate and needs, and urged them to discuss what kind of house should be built at a price the average family could afford. I served four terms as a Congressman and have been in Washington for 12 years now, but I never saw more determined experts.

Quite a few changes occurred after the original Boston Tea Party, and the housing industry will never be quite the same after this one.

For example, most modern architects argue that the living room belongs on the sunny side of the house. We men visualize this room as a bright, cheerful place. Millions of homes have been planned this way.

"Wrong idea!" the women told us vigorously. "We mostly use this room at night, when the sun is down. Moreover, sunlight would fade our rugs and drapes. We prefer the sun in our kitchen, where we are working during the day and can enjoy it." No

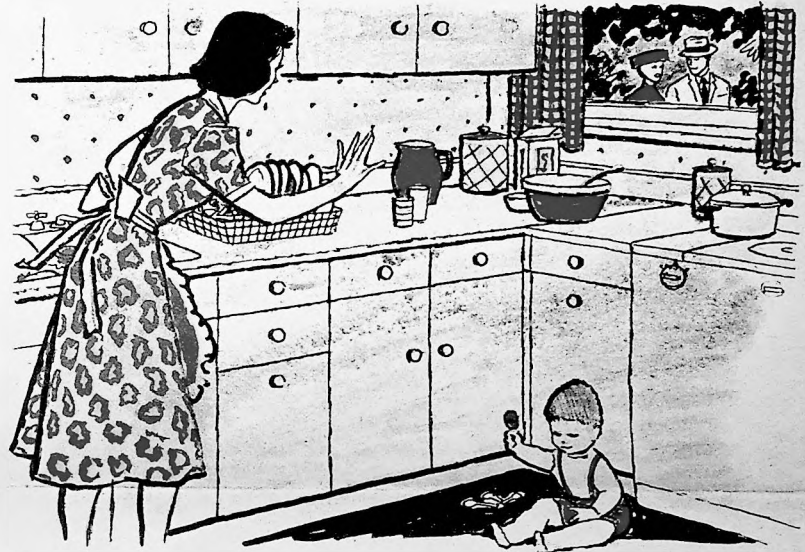
Women Really Want

By **ALBERT M. COLE**

Administrator, Housing and Home Finance Agency



Joe Covello



The men said: *Have the kitchen near the front door, so housewives can see who's coming. Some housewives agree with this suggestion, but the majority have another idea . . .*

suggestion opened my eyes to a complaint America's women probably have nurtured since the Pilgrims built their first home near Plymouth Rock.

My own wife mentioned this in the past — I paid no attention. I know now that practically every housewife feels the same way. Why, they wonder, can't they say something about how houses are planned? Why must male architects and builders make the planning decisions? As a woman from Iowa wrote me, "No man can possibly understand what it is to keep house." An Ohio housewife commented: "How many times have I thought, 'Surely a man designed that — a woman would have known better.'"

So we asked housewives how they would design houses. They flooded us with comments — and cheers. One woman told us: "I think it is . . . the greatest idea since the Boston Tea Party!"

With the letters we received as a guide, we selected 103 women from all parts of the country. They represented all income levels, all classes and included wives of a janitor, a salesman, a small businessman and a college professor. They came to Washington for three days last April as consultants at our expense. Every morning and afternoon we seated them around tables in groups of 10, each representing a geographic area — *Continued on next page*



Administrator Cole

Not good, most women say: *They prefer the kitchen in the rear of the house, so they can keep an eye on the youngsters playing in the back yard. It seems logical*



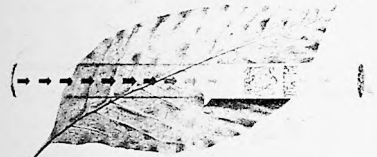
Drawings by Al Moore

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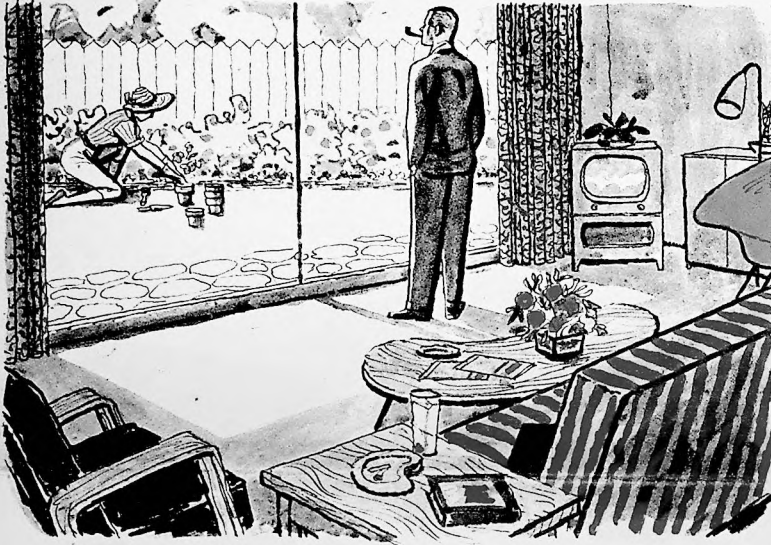
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The House American



The men said: Put the living room on the sunny side of the house, and preferably in the back, where it's nice and secluded. That's what most architects have usually advised.



All wrong, say the women: Sun doesn't matter, because the living room is used mostly at night. They want it in the front of the house, in case of unexpected visitors.



The women think we're making a lot of mistakes in our new homes, says the U.S. housing boss. They have to work in them — and here's what they want

QUESTION: Mrs. Putnam Morrison, of Danbury, Conn., writes, "Architects and home builders are almost always men, and they don't know what women want in a house. Can anything be done about this?" Apparently a lot of U.S. women feel the same way, to judge from the recent Washington conference in which Federal Housing Administrator Cole sought the answer to the same question.

ANSWER: Early this year, my assistant came up with a remarkable idea. We insure millions of dollars' worth of home mortgages every month. We invite experts — builders, architects, bankers — to help us keep abreast of modern technical improvements and rapid changes in living patterns and housing standards. These experts are men. Why not, my assistant said, check the *real* experts — the women who know what a house should be, because they work in them all day long?

My assistant is a woman. Annabelle Heath is, in fact, the first woman ever to serve as assistant housing administrator. Her

"A women's congress on housing is a wonderful idea. I'm glad that you are really interested in what we think of our homes and the way we pay for them."

(Missouri)

"First of all, let me say thank you from the bottom of my heart. This is the best idea America has had since the people of Boston decided to hold that tea party.

I was thrilled with the sliding doors on our closet until I found that my four children constantly get them stuck. They sound good but they are difficult to clean on the inside and the tie racks and shoe bags have no place to go."

(New York)

"I believe the Federal Housing Administration has at last gotten down to the right people when it has stated their interest in just what the women of America deem necessary in a home of 'their' choice, not what our builders and modern designers 'think' we want.

A kitchen should be compact enough in the work area to allow freedom of movement for more than one person, but should also be planned to contain the entire family, not only at mealtime, but should be a place to congregate for hobbies, study or group activity. The old-fashioned oversize farm kitchen must have been a cheerful place to be.

The living room should be large enough in area for relaxing comfortably and not be crowded when guests arrive. With casual living as it is today, formal dining is temporarily in the background, so entertaining and eating should be provided for in the living room. It should be an all-purpose living room."

(Wisconsin)

"What joy! I am elated to find that serious study and consideration is being given to the designing of homes that will more nearly meet the needs and desires of the American housewife.

Area living is primary but this must be cleverly accomplished. A must in any house, in my opinion, is that the living area should be so situated that it does not have to be entered to get from the sleeping to kitchen areas. Every housewife wants one place in her home that can be kept presentable (more-or-less) at all times."

(Michigan)

Excerpts from Letters
from Housewives

General Response

"The idea of a 'Housewives Congress' on Homes for modern living is truly marvelous and very well might be the most constructive and beneficial idea of the year."

(Texas)

"I'd like to congratulate you for having the good sense to ask the American housewives what they would like in a house. It is obvious that you realize that if a woman likes a house it is practically sold. Your plan will be of benefit to everyone concerned."

(Kentucky)

"You should be highly commended for your intelligent views of the housing need, and for trying to see the homemakers views on the housing situation, and for advocating an 'American Congress of Housewives.'

For years I have advocated that homes should be designed by women, or at least have architects, who are usually men, try to design homes from a woman's point of view."

(Virginia)

Excerpts from Letters
from Housewives

Television

"We young matrons in this community are very interested in the Women's Congress on Housing. We women spend most of our time in the home and feel that we know the problems in home planning best. Why shouldn't women have a stronger voice in home planning for others.

We believe that the TV era calls for a definite change in home planning and furniture. That is why we believe a family room with areas for every family hobby and durable furniture is a necessity. We stay at home, play at home; why shouldn't homes be planned to be lived in not just looked at.

More thought should be given the placement of doors. In our kitchen there are five doors which leaves room for little else."
(West Virginia)

"A big need not found in moderate priced houses is a quiet place. A retreat for the parents, or a parent and child for a quiet talk, or to read a book when television, marble games, or other noises make it unbearable in other parts of the house.

I think the open plan kitchen and den combination is a good one as it lets the mother keep an eye on the children and also join in with the family and still prepare meals and do other kitchen duties and yet it keeps the family out of the direct working area."

(Iowa)

"We may as well face the fact that television is changing our way of life so why not an additional small room or alcove where the children can watch their favorite programs without interfering when Mom and Dad wish to read, entertain or just talk between themselves. Why not a few more built in pieces of furniture or closets with drawer space? I realize this would be a luxury but what a convenience!"

(Rhode Island)

"Family Room - I feel that a houseplan should include a room where the family can gather for its hobbies, TV, music, etc., even when some other members have guests."

(Minnesota)

"There are some basic things that every woman looks for in a home: Attractive and individual exterior styling; A large kitchen with loads of work and storage space and room for eating as well; A combination play and television room for the children to keep them from under foot and allow them privileges restricted in other areas of the house. This room should be easily accessible to the kitchen so that a mother can work and supervise their play without difficulty; Adjoining the play room, a handy laundry

Excerpts from Letters
from Housewives

Television

room is ideal. A nice feature in this room could be, built in bins for soiled and clean clothes and cabinets for soap powders, bleach, starch, etc.; Some sort of entry way to omit the bringing in of cold air and wet shoes and umbrellas; There seems to be a trend towards doing away with dining rooms. As far as I am concerned, a family seated around a dining room table in such occasions as Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc., is still an integral part of the American way of life and omitting this room is as serious an offense as forgetting to put in a bathroom."

(Pennsylvania)

"The Family Room -- that is kitchen-den or den-recreation room could serve as the room most utilized, having multiple use for TV, games, eating, sewing and hobbies which bring the family to Mom from play pen through teenage activities. Speaking of the teenage period, this is the time when most small homes are found inadequate. The "Family Room" would certainly be wonderful at that time to take the traffic out of the living room proper."

(Kentucky)

"A big need in present homes is for a Family-room. The current trend of small living rooms is not enough to serve the larger families. A Family-room located off the kitchen would be ideal. A room such as this could be used by the children for their entertaining and their enjoyment - by the whole family for their family fun-time."

(Wisconsin)

"Another thing that is lacking in most houses is play space for rainy days. The family room as it is put into most modern houses is not the answer for young children. During the winter and in bad weather young children must have some indestructible place to ride tricycles, throw balls and swing on swings. Otherwise their unused energy can drive mother to distraction during a prolonged spell of bad weather. We are fortunate enough to have a cellar and here the little ones can rough-house all they please."

(New York)

"I think every home should have a family or rumpus room. It could either be on the first floor or in the basement. That would again depend on finances. Built-in shelves would enhance this extra room. You could build a television set or radio plus have room for toys and sporting equipment."

(New York)

"I think one of the most useful and practical rooms to develop in the last few years is the family room. It takes a great deal of stress and strain off of the rest of the house and also enables the family to engage in various activities and still be together in one room. Needless to say, this room should be of only the most durable materials.

I think your "Congress of American Housewives" is an excellent idea. The housewife should have a large voice in the planning of modern homes since she is the one they are planned for."

(Nebraska)

Excerpts from Letters
from Housewives

Family Room

"I have talked to many people, and many of my friends, about just what they considered essential in a home.

Almost none wanted basements. They wanted a room leading from the kitchen to be used as a recreation room; the size varied but most mentioned 12 x 18. All wanted a large living room but not as large as to be out of proportion. All wanted a utility room leading from the kitchen with a door that would close off from the rest of the house to keep the noise down. Many voiced a dislike for the kitchen and living room as one area. They wanted a way of seeing all of the living room and all of the recreation room from the kitchen but did not want all the kitchen visible by those in the living room."

(Kansas)

"Your invitation to American housewives to submit their ideas on improved housing will be welcomed by many wives - and their husbands - whose views have never penetrated beyond the ears of the Sunday-afternoon-real-estate-salesman.

"The open, exposed kitchen, which salesmen have tried to sell as 'making it possible to stay right with your guests while preparing their dinner' has also vanished from some newer homes; I suspect this shift to slightly more private kitchens is welcomed by many housewives whose kitchens never look sufficiently charming during the preparation of dinner for eight as to make their viewing highly desirable. It is quite impossible to feed one's guests adequately and cheerfully expose them to all the sights and odors of the kitchen no matter how efficient one's culinary art.

"The recent tendency to 'bring the out-of-doors indoors' or 'picture window living' is fine - if - a house is established in a location where there is a desirable out-of-doors area to incorporate into the household atmosphere, and not merely an adjacent garbage can, or at best, carport; even in such desirable situations, glass areas have been so thoroughly overdone in some houses as to leave relatively little wall space for the location of furnishings."

(Virginia)

"There definitely should be two full baths in each home.

"Next, a big functional kitchen. One part to cook in and another for eating. My family likes to sit in the kitchen and talk while I am preparing the meals. I think this is the most important place in the home. And a nice big kitchen, with an extra large eating area and maybe a space for some comfortable sitting would bring back the real home atmosphere so sadly needed. Keep the TV and radio away from the kitchen and in a room designed for leisure and entertainment."

(Kentucky)

"THE BIG FAMILY KITCHEN. This should be the pivotal room in the house -- the small bedrooms going off in one direction from it, and the dining room and parlor set off in another. This kitchen must be a spacious, warm room with perhaps forty percent of its area devoted to a well-planned food-preparation area. The rest of the room, then, would be a big 'nest,' where the family can gather around a fire on winter nights, where the family can eat breakfast or eat other meals informally, where the young children can engage in 'messy' play and be near the mother, where teen agers can congregate for dancing or television watching. (I would put the TV set here rather than in the parlor.)

"THE WOODSHED. This should be more than the cramped 'utility room' or the undesigned 'basement' that we have today. It should be a room accessible to kitchen, garage, and outside living and cooking area. It should contain the utilities and laundry, of course, and there should be sufficient room for every member of the family to have his own space to pursue a hobby or craft."

(New York)

"The kitchen, in the middle income bracket especially, seems to be the most lived in and important room in the house. I think family or all-purpose rooms should be a part of the kitchen and should be spacious enough to accommodate the family and a small group for informal dining.

"A small proper dining room is usually adequate. Very few people have large sit-down dinners any more."

(Georgia)

"A basement, to us, is a necessity. It provides additional storage area. If well and attractively planned, it provides a playroom or second living room.

"I like a kitchen large enough to move around in. I don't want a true 'old fashioned' kitchen where you walk miles from the cabinets to the stove. I would not want an 'openly planned' kitchen.

"My kitchen has to have eating facilities connected with it. We do not have a maid. I think the efficiency of eating in the kitchen, from a housewife's point of view cannot be disputed.

"On the other hand I don't like to see this eating in the kitchen business confused with real 'dining space.' There comes a time for more formal dinners, for company dinners, for special occasions."

(Maryland)

"The kitchen. Why can't we eat in the kitchen? To seat the five of us in a modern kitchen is like the proverbial sardine. We don't want a snack bar. We want a table with the five of us around it."

(Missouri)

"The biggest trouble with present day houses is the kitchen is too small. The broom closets aren't made for upright sweepers and ironing boards."

(Ohio)

"A woman spends so much time in the kitchen that I feel a large family room across half the front of the house saves steps, work, and overcomes the feeling of being shut off from the activities on the outside."

(Georgia)

"I prefer a kitchen with a small horseshoe working area, of stove, sink, refrigerator and counter top working space, which requires only a minimum of steps. In the same room, an area large enough for a family size table and chairs.

"I would gladly sacrifice a musty basement for comparable utility and storage space on the ground floor and a nice large screened porch on the back."

(Virginia)

Excerpts from Letters
from Housewives

Kitchen

"Kitchens -- the kitchen should be a separate room that is, not part of an open living plan. Kitchens are noisy because of such equipment as dish-washers, disposals, fans, washing machines and driers; they are full of cooking odors, even with ventilating fans. Few women want such distractions in their living rooms. The kitchen may, however, be large and multi-purpose, offering room for dining, television, play, and hobby space and laundry, where economy makes such planning necessary. Good design can make such a kitchen extremely attractive as well as practical.

"In a small house, the kitchen might be planned to provide such extra living space, but all houses should have some such extra living space. It should be near the kitchen and close to a lavatory. It should be practical as to walls and flooring and comfortable and cheerful. There should be space to sit and watch television and for such indoor games and hobbies as the family enjoys, as well as play space for the smaller children and babies.

"Picture windows should only be placed where they look onto a pretty view, near or distant. They should never be placed so that they offer the passerby a glimpse of family life."

(New York)

"The kitchen which I think is just about the most important room in the house should be large enough to have a built-in eating nook or table and chairs (not counter and stools).

"In the bedrooms I would want built-in book shelf arrangement with counter space that can be used for writing, drawing, etc. Large closets with well planned shelf arrangement -- sliding doors on closet."

(New Jersey)

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WOMEN'S CONGRESS ON HOUSING

WHAT THE WOMEN ARE SAYING

Selected Excerpts from Letters
Received from American Housewives

IS THERE A BASIC HOUSE FOR A GROWING FAMILY?

When women read novels or attend film extravaganzas they adore scenes showing huge houses with miles of carpet, hundreds of yards of hand printed silk draperies and a million square feet of white woodwork. But because the majority of these women do their own house cleaning they choose their own houses with an eye cast toward the practical side.

* * * *

In my opinion, home building should have a more realistic approach to today's family problems, and also more consideration should be given to the fact that a family may grow larger during the time of residence in their newly acquired home.

* * * *

Most people can't afford to resell and re-buy new houses every few years.

* * * *

We need flexibility. Except for those who must follow jobs, most of us would prefer a house that can be adapted to the changing needs of family. Houses are not commodities like automobiles to be traded in for the latest model; our emotions are involved. We want to plant trees and see them grow up.

* * * *

Magazines appear to be full of perfect houses, yet some of us are too practical for many of the dream homes.

* * * *

Most of the magazines and architects seem to think of those in the higher income brackets with no limit to cost or maintenance. They also forget the closeness of the families as a group which is true in our class. We need a home that will suit our standard of living.

* * * *

Yet we want this home to be comparatively easy to keep up, with the housework brought down to a minimum, where the homemaker can enjoy her family instead of being a drudge from sun-up to sun-down.

* * * *

I feel a house should both "serve you" and "save you". If you are constantly working just to keep the house it has failed in its purpose to be a place to live.

* * * *

As creatures of habits, families must primarily eat, sleep and relax. Just so, the areas accommodating these habits must be adequate.

* * * *

So, space is the first requirement; space for all the things a growing family will use. Space in the bedrooms for hobbies, in the living room for books and music, and in the kitchen space for a little girl to help her mother and learn how to cook. Also, storage space for an incredible number of things that are used periodically. No closet in the world will hold the bathinette and the auto-bed between babies, the Christmas decorations between Decembers, the extra paint that matches the front hall woodwork, the doll house that big sister has outgrown and little sister is not yet ready for, father's fishing or hunting or carpentry equipment.

* * * *

The homebuyer needs to learn to discern between space and usable space; to discern permanent convenience and livability.

* * * *

I believe most important of all is the basic floor plan.

* * * *

Houses must be planned from the inside - not vice versa.

* * * *

Why not, for example, tell the future buyer that the basic house costs so much, but certain items can be added at different prices.

* * * *

These are the basic requirements I believe the new houses should all have regardless of price.

ONE STORY

KITCHEN - FAMILY ROOM

1. Food preparation and service work.
2. Dining.
3. Playroom for children.
4. Sewing.
5. Hobbies - ceramics and children's painting.
6. T.V.
7. Sewing (machine)

I do not want a kitchen in the specific limiting sense. I want a generous sized room with a kitchen wall or area, divided from the rest of the room by a breakfast bar or serving-work counter. This same room must serve as well for dining room, play room for the children, sewing and hobby facilities and room for the television.

This means I can work and watch TV, the children can play well supervised. The sewing machine is in this room and the dining table doubles for cutting. Water from the kitchen sink is available for pressing and my ceramics (hobby) or the children's painting.

There is sitting space so I may work and enjoy the company of my family or guests, while preparing food.

LAUNDRY BATHROOM COMBINATION (WITH MUD ENTRANCE)

The other area I want designed differently is a combination bathroom laundry with an outside entrance. The bathroom is a logical place for the laundry since a large part of soiled clothes go through it in any case. I do not like the idea of handling soiled clothes in the kitchen where food is prepared. A counter sink doubles for hand washing, shaving and make-up very compatably. An outdoor entrance would be ideal to transport the laundry to the clothesline and also would be ideal for the children to come in and use the bathroom without tracking through the whole house.

SEPARATE LIVING ROOM

I want a living room with a fireplace and a little formality - to escape from the mechanics of housekeeping. Room to read while elsewhere someone watches television and room for a buffet party or adult entertaining.

GARAGE - WORKSHOP - HOBBIES

I want a garage to double as my husband's workshop - home carpentry and car repairs. This "do it yourself" trend is permanent - increased leisure, wealth and cost of living make it so and we must provide space for family hobbies.

COMPOSITE - 5 ROOMS, 1½ BATHS, GARAGE

To summarize, a living room, kitchen-work-play room, bathroom-laundry, three bedrooms - the master bedroom with a half bath, garage.

MINIMUM MAINTENANCE (FIRE PROTECTION)

Of course the main objective in a modern home is a minimum of maintenance, and everything possible fireproof. This means an exterior that requires little or no painting, brick or block, metal window frames that are rust, bug, and fire proof. Tile is also desirable as a wall surface (for baths).

We should bring some Florida construction methods north - no trim on doors and windows and archways - simplifies cleaning and upkeep. Marble window ledges are impervious to weather and only require a damp cloth to clean. All floors must be washable - asphalt tile linoleum terrazzo.

CLIMATE

I want a light colored roof to deflect summer sun. We should pay more attention to the orientation of our homes to capture summer breezes and winter sun.

KITCHEN + FAMILY ROOM + LIVING ROOM
LAUNDRY UTILITY ROOM + 3 BEDROOMS + 2 BATHS + GARAGE

KITCHEN + FAMILY ROOM + LIVING ROOM

The kitchen itself would be on the U-shape plan with a 5 or 6 ft. distance between opposite counters. More would be a waste of costly square footage; less would be too congested...especially if someone is helping with the chores.

The living room, family room and kitchen would have partial partitions and circle-type circulation so that when the relatives and friends gang up, we can spill over from one into the other without a sense of complete separation. There would be a four to six stool eating bar separating the kitchen from the family room, for in spite of good intentions, our own family seems to end up eating every meal but breakfast in the present living room where Television reigns. This turns out to be a balancing act, rough on the furniture and frequently proves embarrassing when unexpected callers arrive.

LAUNDRY

Directly off of the kitchen would be a utility room partitioned only by folding doors so that it can be opened or shut at will. This room would be just large enough to adequately accommodate my washer, dryer, ironer, sewing machine and a standing ironing board for daily quick-press jobs. But away with the furnace and water heater! Put them in the central fireplace wall and leave the utility for daily utility purposes!

FRONT ENTRY

A recessed front door flanked by panels of glass that let in light and at the same time provide privacy.

There would be an entrance hall and coat closet to catch direct winter drafts and guests apparel.

BEDROOMS - BATHS

Naturally, there would be three bedrooms, none of which would be less than 12 by 14'. The master would boast a private bath and the second bathroom would be between the remaining two bedrooms....

CLOSETS

Closets that are 3' deep to accommodate a broadshouldered man's coats.

DOUBLE GARAGE OR CARPORT + STORAGE CLOSETS

And with every double garage or double carport an adequate storage area for bicycles, skates, lawnfurniture, gardening equipment.

TRAFFIC LANES

Let's have the traffic area bypass the living room.

CLIMATE

Built in air-conditioning.

EXTERIOR - INDIVIDUALITY

The house I want to live in would have an individualized exterior.

SPLIT-LEVEL

The split level home has been a great money saver and space maker. Of course it requires a special building site but I believe there will be more demand for these homes every year.

KITCHEN-DEN - LAUNDRY

1. Food preparation and service work
2. Play space for children
3. Laundry
4. Ironing
5. Children's games
6. T.V.

I think the open plan kitchen and den combination is a good one as it lets the mother keep an eye on the children and also join in with the family and still prepare meals and do other kitchen duties and yet it keeps the family out of the direct working area. In with the open plan kitchen-den I think a laundry area (which could be screened off when not in use) with the laundry equipment plus a built in ironing board and space for a sewing machine. The built in ironing board has not been seen in modern houses for several years and I cannot see why it has been eliminated. It is so useful for quick pressings and indispensable when sewing. Frankly, in eight years of marriage I have not yet gained enough efficiency to finish the weeks ironing without several interruptions. Therefore I believe it quite necessary to have a place especially designed for ironing so that it can be left without having to move the board, and then put it back up when you have the time to get back at it.

LIVING ROOM (SEPARATE) CLEAN ROOM FOR GUESTS

Although I approve of the open plan for the kitchen and den, I prefer a closed off living room.

Location - And most important it should be out of the every day traffic lanes and preferably on the quiet side of the house. By taking it out of the family traffic rooms it simplifies keeping it clean for guests and gives parents a place to entertain without disturbing the children's games and television in the den.

QUIET PLACE - ENLARGED MASTER BEDROOM

A big need not found in moderate priced houses is a quiet place. A retreat for the parents, or a parent and child for a quiet talk, or to read a book when television, marble games, or other noises make it unbearable in other parts of the house. A harbor for the husband when he gets home from a nerveracking day at work. A good way to find this space would be to enlarge the master bedroom to incorporate a couple of comfortable arm chairs, lamp, and card size table.

STORAGE - BUILT-INS FOR TOYS AND LARGE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

It is almost unnecessary to mention more storage space. A home never has enough. But I believe more built-ins for toys and large electrical equipment are needed.

1/2 BATH

I think any house that costs over 15,000 dollars or has more than two bedrooms, needs an extra bathroom. Even a half bathroom is a great help.

TWO STORY AND BASEMENT

I am definitely in favor of the "old-fashioned" two story house.

The ground floor of my dream home would have 3 rooms and an enclosed back porch - kitchen, bedroom and living room.

KITCHEN + DINING + LAUNDRY

The majority of interest here would be centered on a large kitchen. It would be a combination kitchen, dining room and laundry. Reasons for laundry located here - small children require constant attention. Laundry here would enable me to be on same floor as children - also would allow small tasks to be performed in conjunction with laundry - breakfast dishes - feeding of baby - hand washing. Modern laundry appliances are so compact and attractive - no fear of being "caught in a mess" by company.

For convenience and economy - all dining is done here...

REAR ENTRY - PORCH (ENCLOSED)

Closed-in back porch - the greatest of labor savers - entry way for children on rainy or snowy days - saves tracking through house - soiled, muddy, sandy clothing discarded here - wonderful place for everything - wet galoshes - hanging of play or school coats so frequently used - extra sleeping room in summer - for sewing - added play space - den for husband - could be kept closed in winter for economy in heat.

FRONT ENTRY

Speaking of porches - whatever happened to the old-fashioned front porches? Eyesore? Not to me - good place for a few stolen moments of lounging in porch swing or something similar - great for play on warm rainy days and what versatile fun bannisters provide for children...

BASEMENT - PLAY ROOM, UTILITY ROOM, WORK SHOP, FRUIT STORAGE

Basements are definitely in our picture for many reasons. An excavation of 3 or 4 feet is necessary for a foundation, why not go a little deeper and have a multi-purpose space for fruit storage, utility room, work shop, especially play room for children, to mention a few.

ADVANTAGES OF 2 STORY HOUSE - DISADVANTAGE - STAIRS

The two story house has one disadvantage - stairs - but the advantages are many - provides more space for your money - allows children to rest easier at night - away from distractions downstairs. Housekeeping made easier - less inclination to scatter articles throughout house - pajamas, etc. stay upstairs - also allows airing of rooms, bedding and re-decoration while keeping this from ground floor view.

More economical for plumbing - for example concerning bathrooms, full bath up and half bath down.

RANCH - DISADVANTAGES

Ranch styles are lovely but they take up too much space on your lot in order to have the necessary rooms. They are more expensive - more roof, etc.

STORIES NOT STATED

KITCHEN + DINING (FAMILY)

Naturally, the kitchen should be large enough for eating facilities (breakfasts, snacks). I would not advise growing families stressing the importance of a huge kitchen when the spaciousness of other rooms must be sacrificed.

Experience has taught me that the baby and toddler stage is about the shortest period in the child's life and the home should not be purchased only with this period in mind.

As the children grow older it is much more of an advantage to them to have privacy for their own thoughts and a spot should be provided for their activities when they are in a more social mood.

SEPARATE DINING ROOM

My preference is a separate dining room as we feel that children should not be brought up eating a life-time of meals in the kitchen, no matter what size.

With the dining room in close range of the kitchen, most mothers will be able to find a convenient spot for baby and the play-pen while she is working in the kitchen.

MORE THAN 1 BATH

With families growing in number more than one bathroom should be provided in the plan.

SPECIAL AREAS (SEE 1 & 2 UNDERLINED ABOVE - KITCHEN + DINING)

Father should have his own special nook, this, of course, depending upon the circumstances, whether it be a den, a workshop in the basement, or whatever his temperament desires.

EXPANSIBILITY

As I understand your problem, you are especially concerned with the average-income family and what it is looking for in a home. Therefore, from my experience, this home can't start off as the "Dream Home" but must be able to be expanded and improved upon as the family needs change.

The original home as purchased must be situated on the building site in order to take advantage of the terrain, and the lot must be of practical size to accommodate any additions to the house that might be needed in the future.

NEIGHBORHOOD

In order for this to be possible the family must choose the best neighborhood it can afford and one that is convenient to schools, stores, and transportation.

MAINTENANCE

Since you want the women's angle and I don't presume to know the construction business, I can't say what type of heating, plumbing, etc., should be used, other than to state that the best developments and materials for the area should be utilized.

CLIMATE

Air conditioning is certainly a new thought in housing and I believe any family would welcome the relief it affords during the summer months. Its use would be governed by the locality and the families' pocketbooks. If it could not be provided with the original cost of the house, here again, every provision should be made for its future use.

WHO SAID IT?

1. Charity is not the only thing which begins at home. The happy marriages, wholesome families, and well adjusted and integrated individuals toward which our society is striving also begin at home. But a home must first be a house; and because the actor is of necessity limited by his stage and props, this house must offer many and varied "stage settings". In short, it must be all things to all members of the family.

* * * * *

2. Isolation and yet integration that each individual and task may have his and its measure of privacy when needed and yet a maintaining of the oneness of the family unit and the overlapping of duties and activities.

* * * * *

3. Whether we wish to admit it or not, the house is a very important factor in shaping the character of our children, a sort of third parent. So let's make it spacious, of good design and adequate to the needs of modern gracious living.

* * * * *

4. I've done a lot of thinking about the increasing tempo and complexity of modern life and its effect not only on ourselves, but on our children. I believe the home should be a haven in a tension filled world. It should provide privacy as well as companionship for all its members. A home should combine maximum comfort and efficiency with minimum effort. A mother should be able to give more time to her children and their emotional needs, and thereby decrease the number of problem and disturbed children in our society. I think the right kind of home can provide the entire family with security in our jet propelled civilization.

* * * * *

5. The right to make noise and the right to quiet privacy should be prominently listed among the civil liberties.

* * * * *

6. Home is a place, a sound, a mood, shadow and sunlight, rough edge and smooth.

* * * * *

7. A home should be a family refuge. This cannot be accomplished by a house alone but the physical structure of a dwelling can provide facilities which will aid in accomplishing the goal of integrated family living combined with individual achievements in personal growth.

* * * * *

8. How to build a house is a simple enough problem. How to build a community of houses so that life in them can be flexible and rewarding is a far harder one that we as Americans have now the opportunity of helping to solve.

* * * * *

9. My opinion is that a home should be warm, comfortable, attractive, clean, a place to bring friends, a place to gather for all occasions, and above all a home where mother and father can be playmates with their children and not always too tired from the day's work to give them some needed attention.

* * * * *

10. One does not have to be an expert in family relations to know that family ties are being weakened by frequent moving from one community to another, rapid social and technological change. Therefore, if psychological and emotional needs are planned for as well as physical ones, families will be encouraged to associate under pleasant and spontaneous circumstances which will surely reinforce fundamental relationships responsible for motivating pleasant, constructive character and attitudes.

* * * * *

11. I would like to see more attention given to the functional aspects of a home and less to the styles of the day which add nothing to the enjoyment or workability of the home. In the final analysis, simplicity and function seem to be keynotes of effective planning.

* * * * *

12. My home and all the homes of this great nation should symbolize our strong and deep-rooted faith in the integrity and worth of human beings, and should truthfully mirror our yearnings for a better life.

* * * * *

13. Nothing should be included in a home because it is new or stylish, but rather because it lends comfort and ease of living as well as beauty and economy.

* * * * *

14. We must review the meaning of home. What is it for? Home is the setting for a family, for the solidarity that is built on togetherness. It is a place where purposeful or recreational activities are enjoyed in companionship with those who care about us as individuals. Home is a refuge from a busy and impersonal world, a place where we can find privacy, peace and quiet.

* * * * *

15. Homes should help give happiness, serenity, and the means to fully cultivate the personality of every member of the family. Our homes should increase the opportunity and capacity to give and receive the warmth of human affection. Every home should be organized to include children--whether it be our own and their friends, or our neighbors' children or grandchildren.

* * * * *

Identification of Statements

1. Mrs. Richard D. Blickenstaff, Eugene, Oregon
2. Mrs. Joy B. Lott, Twin Bridges, Montana
3. Mrs. J. F. Lake, Steamboat Springs, Colorado
4. Mrs. Robert Schur, Chicago, Illinois
5. Mrs. Hal Ogle, Vancouver, Washington
6. Mrs. Peter Whitney, Bellaire, Texas
7. Mrs. Wm. C. Graham, Wichita, Kansas
8. Mrs. Sidney Withington, New Haven, Connecticut
9. Mrs. Clifford J. Lund, Minneapolis, Minnesota
10. Mrs. F. F. Fodor, Detroit, Michigan
11. Mrs. Amp W. Miller, Jr., Dallas, Texas
12. Mrs. John F. Faherty, Hales Corners, Wisconsin
13. Mrs. Evelyn Amos, Sweet, Idaho
14. Mrs. Thomas R. Kieft, Sioux City, Iowa
15. Mrs. Rhoda M. Chaloupka, Callaway, Nebraska

APR 26 1956

Housing and Home Finance Agency
Office of the Administrator
LIBRARY

Capital Heights, Route 2
Frankfort, Kentucky
March 20, 1956

The Honorable Albert M. Cole, Administrator
Housing & Home Finance Agency
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Cole:

I would recommend the following items to promote the happy development of the growing child, the relaxation of the working father, and the mental and physical health of the mother or housekeeper:

A basement, with storage shelves, a half-bath, and a utility room for laundering.

An entrance hall with the atmosphere of a "mud room" with closet, or easily reached room, for storage of wraps, boots, and "going equipment"---golf bags, skates, brief case, shopping bag, umbrellas, etc.

A combined living-dining area, where one eats, relaxes horizontally, reads, watches television and leaves room for children underfoot.

A food preparation center, convenient to front door, television, and dining area. It necessarily need not appear clinical, but rather blend with the living area.

A bathroom large enough to accommodate mother, child and one other adult.

Bedrooms featuring a bed raised 36 inches from the floor by storage drawers and cabinets. Other additions should express the tenor of the individual occupant, viz., toy shelves in the nursery, hobby area for the amateur collector, sewing section for the mother, or perhaps a comfortable reading chair and book shelves for the student.

Do not overlook a clothes chute.

A screened-in porch area can serve to better advantage than any other open area for summer dining, sleeping and entertaining.

Built-in lighting...

Very truly yours,

Mrs. D.M. Magill
Capital Heights, Route 2
Frankfort, Kentucky

-more-

835 Collingwood Drive
East Lansing, Michigan
March 17, 1956

Mr. Albert M. Cole
Housing Administrator
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Cole:

At a time when architects are overwhelming in favor of bringing the outdoors in (ceiling to floor windows, trees and shrubbery) they forget that, unknowingly I hope, they are bringing the noise in too. When efficiency (or is it) is sacrificed in favor of noise, I am against it! A day at home for the average family man is enough to drive him back to the quietness of his factory or office. I'm sure it bothers most women too, but we won't admit it. Having a dishwasher, freezer, refrigerator, washer, dryer and heaven only knows what else we could use, seems sweet music to our ears. It represents to us time, money and a sort of prestige (servants without talking back)...but, oh, what a racket! In other words, I'm for less noise in the kitchen and anywhere else around the home; and yet, no one seems to say a word about it! ...Only me! I have all I can stand with an automatic clothes washer and that is in the basement! ...

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. William J. Callaghan

March 21 - 1956
Box 42
Hamilton, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I am definitely in favor of the "old-fashioned" two story house. Ranch styles are lovely but they take up too much space on your lot in order to have the necessary rooms. They are more expensive - more roof etc. The two story house has one disadvantage - stairs - but the advantages are many - provides more space for your money - allows children to rest easier at night - away from distractions downstairs. Housekeeping made easier - less inclination to scatter articles throughout house - pajamas, etc. stay upstairs - also allows airing of rooms, bedding and re-decoration while keeping this from ground floor view.

More economical for plumbing - for example concerning bathrooms, full bath up and half bath down.

Basements are definitely in our picture for many reasons. An excavation of 3 or 4 feet is necessary for a foundation, why not go a little deeper and have a multi-purpose space for fruit storage, utility room, work shop, especially play room for children to mention a few.

The grand floor of my dream home would have 3 rooms and an enclosed back porch - kitchen bedroom and living room. The majority of interest here would be centered on a large kitchen. It would be a combination kitchen, dining room and laundry. Reasons for laundry located here- small children require constant attention. Laundry here would enable me to be on same floor as children - also would allow small tasks to be performed in conjunction with laundry - breakfast dishes - feeding of baby - hand washing. Modern laundry appliances are so compact and attractive - no fear of being "caught in a mess" by company.

For convenience and economy - all dining is done here...

Closed-in back porch - the greatest of labor savers - entry way for children on rainy or snowy days - saves tracking through house - soiled, muddy, sandy clothing discarded here - wonderful place for everything - wet galoshes - hanging of play or school coats so frequently used - extra sleeping room in summer - for sewing - added play space - den for husband - could be kept closed in winter for economy in heat. Speaking of porches - whatever happened to the old-fashioned front porches? Eyesore? Not to me - good place for a few stolen moments of lounging in porch swing or something similar - great for play on warmrainy days and what versatile fun bannisters provide for children...

Thank you,

Mrs. David W. Knowles

March 16, 1956

Dear Mr. Cole:

...If we ever buy another house I want a dining room, not just a dining "area" in the living room or kitchen. I just can't understand why so many medium priced (\$11,000.00 to \$15,000) homes in this county are arranged to "sleep" so many people when you couldn't possibly feed everyone at the same time.

One of the most popular styles, of which ours is one, is the one and one-half story, two bedrooms, living room, kitchen and semi-finished bedrooms upstairs. In this house eight people could be bedded quite comfortably, but there isn't room for even six to sit at a family table...

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carl Spies, Jr.
8407 Virginia Rd.
Pleasure Ridge Park,
Kentucky

March 16, 1956
Richmond, Ind.

Housing Administrator
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Sir:

...I am really in favor of the dining room coming back. However, I think it can be consolidated into the TV or family room. This way it's really used the year round.

Basements are a thing of the past.

It seems this generation is getting used to larger rooms and a more open feeling in their homes. Folding and sliding doors help give this appearance.

This is only my opinion, but with higher building costs and the urge for larger rooms, that the two story house is the answer to lots of families need for space which cannot be realized on some smaller city lots and with most pocket-books...

You probably are wondering what kind of a house we're building now. Well, it's "contemporary" Cape Cod...large windows (not window walls) cement slab, white shingled roof, 2 baths, pine dining-family room, and screened porch.

We say that this is the last house we'll ever build, but our friends just chuckle. At least, it has been studied and poured over by the fire many an hour and we hope to spend many happy hours in our new home...

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Earl N. Daggy, Jr.
R.R. #3
Richmond, Ind.

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APR 26 1956

Mortgage and Home Finance Agency
Office of the Administrator
LIBRARY

419 North Court Street
Sparta, Wisconsin
March 20, 1956

Dear Mr. Cole:

...From our Sunday "just-looking" experiences, we have formulated certain basic qualifications for our next home. Because we feel that any home can be made attractive, this criteria does not enter the picture; nor has the physical planning yet been molded. But, in general, the following four specifications for our future home must be met:

1. It must be a house which can be afforded.

This does not mean it must fall within a certain price-bracket. Many times, the down payment as well as the monthly loan, insurance and tax payments can be squeezed into a budget. But we feel that a truly "afforded" house must be able to reflect one's own way of life, in its furnishings, upkeep and yard improvements, and still not break the piggy-bank in attempting to maintain standards kept by others in the neighborhood.

2. There must be privacy for each member of the family, as well as room for total family living.

If we expect our children, as they grow older, to entertain in their own home, we must provide the space as well as the opportunity to do so. In addition, there must be areas of refuge to which any individual may retreat if these functions are not of his concern.

3. The physical plan must be conveniently arranged with ease of maintenance and cleaning.

4. The house design must be adaptive to family changes, interests and hobbies.

It goes without saying that we want a house the construction of which will withstand the strain of climatic and geological conditions, and we hope we select one which will age gracefully.

If we continue to live in a small town, the nearness to schools, churches, shopping and recreational areas does not loom so largely into the buying picture as it does in the larger city. And we hope that by living in a more rural setting than we have previously done, we may be in a position to activate our hopes in the construction of our "dream house" a bit sooner, a bit more economically, and have a bit more fun doing it.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. R. D. Niles

8334 Cottage Grove Avenue
Chicago 19, Illinois

Dear Sir:

The house that has:

1. potential for my family living;
2. aesthetic quality, pleasing to my family, and, hopefully, to others;
3. utility, servicability and easy maintenance,

is the kind of house my husband and I desire...

This check list includes ideas and thought assembled over a period of years for the consideration in building or buying a home. The cost of including each one of these ideas would, of course, be prohibitive. The inclusion of the majority of these ideas in a house would make for a more than desirable home.

Exterior of house

Avoid poor imitation of some period of the past.

Look for simple, unadorned entrance. No gingerbread!

Plan overhangs to protect large glass areas and all doors.

Provide for outdoor living--porch or terrace.

Electrical outlets for porch or terrace, and front of house.

Exterior materials which do not require excessive repainting or refinishing.

No picture window revealing grotesque lamp and shade on street.

Meters on outside of house.

Plan for eventual privacy of property with fences, hedges, trees.

Short, level driveway, which doesn't block entry to house. If possible, driveway should include turnaround.

Inconspicuous garbage can.

Living room

Living room should seem spacious, with pleasant views from windows both summer and winter.

Plan lots of built in bookshelves, and deep shelves for scrapbooks, annuals, albums, etc. Rack for magazines and cupboards for cards and games would be wonderful.

Entry hall with adequate guest closet, should be a central traffic area.

Fireplace is a must, with built-in storage space for wood.

Doorway from living room to outdoors highly desirable.

Dining, family area

Dining room should be convenient to both kitchen and living area, with sufficient room for entertaining.

Combine dining use with general family use...game and toy storage, television.

Plan storage area for crystal, china and linen. A rod over which to hang linen cloths would be helpful.

Pay strict attention to the floor covering in the dining area to accommodate for adults' carelessness, and childrens' ineptitude.

-more-



Kitchen

Cabinet space in kitchen must be scientifically planned, in association with sink, refrigerator, range and oven. Cornell University's publication on kitchens is a real inspiration here.

Look for a cheery kitchen with some open space toward dining room, for purposes of sociability and ease in serving, but space which could be closed off when the kitchen is not tidy.

Plan minimum eating space in kitchen, primarily for breakfasts.

Place outside play area near kitchen, so children could be seen from there.

Laundry room adjacent to kitchen would be a wonderfully handy arrangement.

Look for space for sorting in laundry room.

Plan service entrance to serve kitchen, laundry room, garage, basement, (if any).

Heed the lighting of kitchen work areas!

Bedrooms

Small bedrooms, exclusively for sleeping and dressing, in the main, are what we require.

The master bedroom could be larger to accommodate a desk where the master or mistress of the house could find solitude.

Closets should open full width.

Built in drawers and dressing table would be a real luxury---no dusting behind dressers, etc.

Plan childrens' closets so that hooks and rods can be adjusted to growth.

Ironing board in master bedroom---built in would be best, for quick pressing jobs. . .

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Robert S. Olson
8334 Cottage Grove Avenue
Chicago 19, Illinois



3301 Northampton St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.
March 22, 1956

Housing Administrator
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

Re: Women's Congress

The recent article appearing in the newspaper stating you were interested in knowing what women really wanted in the house of the future has prompted me to write this letter.

I feel that I am qualified to answer your appeal in that I have been married about fourteen years, have two growing children, have owned and sold one post-war house, have helped my husband plan and actually build our own country home, and at present we are repairing and modernizing an old home purchased within the past year.

As I understand your problem, you are especially concerned with the average-income family and what it is looking for in a home. Therefore, from my experience, this home can't start off as the "Dream Home" but must be able to be expanded and improved upon as the family needs change. In order for this to be possible the family must choose the best neighborhood it can afford and one that is convenient to schools, stores, and transportation. The original home as purchased must be situated on the building site in order to take advantage of the terrain, and the lot must be of practical size to accommodate any additions to the house that might be needed in the future. My preference is a separate dining room as we feel that children should not be brought up eating a life-time of meals in the kitchen, no matter what size. Naturally, the kitchen should be large enough for eating facilities (breakfasts, snacks). With the dining room in close range of the kitchen, most mothers will be able to find a convenient spot for baby and the play-pen while she is working in the kitchen. Experience has taught me that the baby and toddler stage is about the shortest period in the child's life and the home should not be purchased only with this period in mind. I would not advise growing families stressing the importance of a huge kitchen when the spaciousness of other rooms must be sacrificed. As the children grow older it is much more of an advantage to them to have privacy for their own thoughts and a spot should be provided for their activities when they are in a more social mood. With families growing in number more than one bathroom should be provided in the plan. Father should have his own special nook, this, of course, depending upon the circumstances, whether it be a den, a workshop in the basement, or whatever his temperament desires.

Since you want the women's angle and I don't presume to know the construction business, I can't say what type of heating, plumbing, etc., should be used, other than to state that the best developments and materials for the area should be utilized. Air conditioning is certainly a new thought in housing and I believe any family would welcome the relief it affords during the summer months. Its use would be governed by the locality and the families' pocketbooks. If it could not be provided with the original cost of the house, here again, every provision should be made for its future use.

Books have been written on this subject and I realize your office would appreciate concise letters, therefore I have only mentioned what I consider "musts" in home planning.

I hope this letter will help with your problem and that I might be considered for a place in the Women's Congress.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. H. Daniel Drake, Jr.

U.S. H. H. F. A. O. A.

Women's Congress on Housing:
Miscellaneous materials.

Press releases



HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR • Washington 25, D. C.

APR 26 1956

Housing and Home Finance Agency
Office of the Administrator
LIBRARY

NOTE TO EDITORS AND PROGRAM DIRECTORS:

We are enclosing a statement just issued by Housing and Home Finance Administrator, Albert M. Cole, the Government's top housing official, announcing plans to hold a Woman's Congress on Housing in Washington (probably the latter part of April) to get the homemaker's reaction to modern home design, equipment, and planning in terms of modern living needs and habits.

The Administrator is also inviting family housewives throughout the country to write him letters now about their ideas, their likes and dislikes to help provide a typical cross-section of women's views. This is not a letter-writing contest, but some of the letters will help to identify representative housewives having a significant and typical contribution to make as one means for selecting the women to attend the meeting in Washington. The results will be used in a re-study on Government housing requirements and for the further guidance of the housing industry in future home design. Attached also is a list of typical questions about modern home design that are already under study by the HHFA and its constituent, the Federal Housing Administration.

We believe this invitation to family housewives to express their views to the Government and the plans for the forthcoming meeting of housewives in Washington will be of interest to your readers, particularly your women readers. They can address their letters simply to "The Housing Administrator, Washington 25, D.C." Letters should be received by mid-April in order to be reviewed and considered before the national meeting is held. If you want further information as plans develop, please advise us and we will send you releases and announcements issued on the proposal.

Division of Information
Office of the Administrator
Housing and Home Finance Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

HOUSING and HOME
FINANCE AGENCY



Office of the Administrator
Federal Housing Administration
Public Housing Administration
Federal National Mortgage Association
Community Facilities Administration
Urban Renewal Administration

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
Washington 25, D. C.



HHFA-OA-No. 974
(EX. 3-4160, ext. 4433)

Housing and Home Finance Agency
Office of the Administrator
LIBRARY

FOR RELEASE
ON RECEIPT

The American housewife will have her chance to make her voice and views heard in the housing councils of the Government under a proposal announced this week by the Government's top housing official, Albert M. Cole, Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency.

Mr. Cole announced that he will call a Woman's Congress on Housing late in April in Washington where a representative cross-section of American housewives will bring together their thinking about the design of the home today and how it can be better planned for present-day family living needs.

Preparatory for that conference, the Housing Administrator has invited American family housewives to write him their ideas about the modern American home and how it serves or fails to serve their practical living requirements.

"This is the first time, I believe, that the Government has gone direct to the homemaker for guidance for itself and the housing industry on the kind of homes American families need," Mr. Cole said. "We have decided that when it comes to planning home requirements, we ought to ask the woman who runs one."

The letters will help furnish basic questions for the Woman's Congress to consider. They will also be used as one means for selecting women to attend the Congress and assure its being broadly representative of grass-roots opinion. Letters must be received by mid-April or sooner to be considered in time for the meeting.

Discussion at this conference will be focused on single-family houses and families with children in order to provide a common ground for discussion, research, and recommendations related to the predominant type of housing currently being produced.

"We are not seeking ideas about dream houses unrelated to pocketbook facts," Mr. Cole said. "We want to know how, from the housewife's standpoint, the house can be made more livable, convenient, and suited to family needs within the general price range that the family can afford."

-more-

"We have experienced a veritable revolution in housing in the post-war years -- in modern labor-saving equipment, design, use of living space, and relation to the outdoors and the neighborhood. How do housewives react to these changes -- what do they like and how do they think home planning can be improved? How do they feel about split-level houses, basementless houses, the many new varieties of window treatment, of heating systems, of built-in closet and cupboard space, of compact kitchens or open-type family rooms, and neighborhood facilities?

"We want to know and we think the housewife can tell us."

Mr. Cole emphasized that no awards are being made for the letters sent in -- that this is not a "letter-writing contest."

"We want the letters for the experience they can give us, regardless of literary expression. We want the housewife to write in her own way, in her own words, what she thinks. We believe some of these letters will lead us to women who have valuable homemaking ideas and understanding to contribute to the Woman's Congress on Housing."

Letters can be addressed simply to the Housing Administrator, Washington 25, D. C.

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March 21, 1956

NOTE TO EDITORS: If you wish to localize this announcement to direct it to the housewives in your city or area, please adapt it as you judge best.

Housing and Home Finance Agency
Office of the Administrator
Washington 25, D.C.

Housing and Home Finance Agency
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FOR RELEASE
Thursday, March 15, 1956

STATEMENT OF ALBERT M. COLE,
ADMINISTRATOR, HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY,
AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, HOTEL LEXINGTON, NEW YORK, N. Y.
THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1956, AT 3:30 P.M.

The American homebuilding industry is in transition. Gone are the days when acute need for more shelter was the chief factor in the purchase of a house. Gradually, almost without realizing it, we have entered an era of highly selective buying -- an era in which the buyer will speak with ever increasing vigor and effect about what his family wants and expects to find in a new home.

This I find very stimulating and challenging for I am concerned not alone with the problems of housing and home financing. As Housing Administrator I see my basic job as helping to promote better living for the American people.

With the strong cooperation of private industry we are daily advancing this purpose toward fuller attainment.

The presence here of representatives of leading trade associations covering the building and allied industries is in itself assurance that private enterprise has accepted the challenge to produce homes better shaped to the new patterns of American living. The same men who constructed more than ten million homes since the end of World War II are leading the march of research and they have already gone beyond the stage of developing better and more economical materials and techniques. They

are well aware that they must design and erect homes which take account of the changing attitude of the family toward its home.

Not so many years ago the typical home was in effect a stern task-master. The family -- and especially the woman of the house -- had an almost endless series of labors to perform. I feel that I need not elaborate. Most people have had a hand in domestic chores. A great many people would add that they haven't noted much change today.

Nevertheless, a great change has already come about and an even greater change is under way. We are, in fact, undergoing a revolution.

The chief change has to do with what we call the machinery of the home -- a vast array of labor-saving instruments, utensils, tools and gadgets -- all with the objective and result of making the home a less dreary and exhausting place to operate.

But the home itself, though it has in recent years shown considerable improvement, has not fully kept pace with the machinery that has been developed to serve it. Even less has the home kept full pace with the rapidly changing design of contemporary living, and despite all the more spectacular changes that have come about during the present century, this quiet but irresistibly changing design of living is likely to be noted by social historians of the future as the most profound and far-reaching change of our time.

I mean simply this: Thanks to the tremendous productivity of the American people, we have more time and we will have progressively more and more time in the years just ahead to do the things we want to do.

Factory workers, office workers, those employed in the various servicing industries, men and women in every walk of life -- all are spending less time producing goods and services and finding themselves with both the means and the time to pursue other activities of their own choosing. They have more cars and they travel more widely. They play more golf and tennis. They swim more and sail more boats. They grow more dahlias and ski down more hills. They take more photographs, collect more antiques, watch more TV shows, and listen to more symphony concerts.

And the more they pursue their hobbies and avocations, the more they resent having to spend a single needless moment cooking, cleaning, doing laundry and taking care of the house in a hundred other tedious ways. They want their added leisure time to be productive and stimulating. They are tired of giving unrewarding hours of service to the house. They want the house to give service to them.

I am sure they are going to get this new kind of house. The home-builders are already beginning to build it for them. The mortgage lenders are beginning to insist on it. Civic authorities and far-sighted business men strongly favor it.

The reason behind my confidence that the new homes will be fitted more and more to the new patterns for living is quite simple: Every new house that does not take these new patterns into account will be obsolete long before it is old or even middle-aged, a dubious investment alike for builder, buyer, and banker.

All three of these groups have a primary concern with stable property values. Civic leaders are equally concerned with stable values in relation

to a firm tax base, and the Federal Government, which insures or guarantees billions of dollars worth of mortgage loans, has no less concern -- for your Government must do everything in its power to safeguard this huge investment of all the people.

Thus, shaping the new American home to the new pattern for living is essentially a decision based on prudence and wisdom. Any other course would be folly.

What lies immediately before us is the need to determine more precisely and clearly the details of the new house. We must canvas the situation with a great deal of thoroughness. Home builders, manufacturers, realtors, lenders and the Government cannot go forward on the basis of well-meaning opinions and untested theories. They need hard facts. One of the things to which we must pay particular attention is the temporary lure, the fashion of the moment, the mere fad. We must separate the superficial from the fundamental. We must know, for example, whether families really get more service ~~out~~ of single story houses -- out of split-level houses -- out of open-design houses -- out of family rooms, game rooms, TV rooms, rumpus rooms -- out of unwallied carports -- out of centrally located kitchens -- out of movable partitions, out of low beam roofs, picture windows, glass walls, and a hundred dazzling innovations unknown to building half a dozen years ago.

And here I must state emphatically that the Government not only wants to find the answer to these and other questions, but has to have them. There is a law that contains the formidable phrase, "minimum property requirements" -- which covers such things as size of lots, size and number

of rooms, size and condition of bathrooms, and various other elements. This law is basic in the granting of Government insurance on mortgages.

Let me sum it up like this: the ten million and more houses built since the War represent an investment in excess of 100 billion dollars. In the decade ahead the American people will invest at the very least another 100 billion dollars in new homes and the Government does not propose to be partner to a 100 billion dollar mistake.

It is the unalterable conviction of the present Administration that private enterprise has the responsibility and the capacity to carry out the program that lies ahead. The function of the Government is to provide counsel, to encourage and to give assistance.

Therefore, I am suggesting that the building and allied industries explore the future by taking concerted action and finding answers to the home building problems that will be as complete and reliable as human ingenuity can make them, and to further such an exploration I am proposing to call a meeting in Washington in the near future of the people who are most likely to provide the down-to-earth facts that have to be assembled.

I propose to invite from all parts of the country the people who are closest to the home -- the ones who do the biggest part of the work in the home -- the ones who take daily measure of the contribution the home makes or fails to make to a satisfactory living.

These people, of course, are the housewives of America. If they respond favorably to my suggestion -- and I hope they will look upon this as an invitation to write -- they will send representatives to

Washington to discuss with private industry and their Government the problems that have to be solved if they are to share more fully the expanded leisure time enjoyed by the other members of their family.

I shall welcome letters and comments from the housewives of America. I hope that my mail will shortly reveal an active demand for a Woman's Congress on Housing.

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HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY
Office of the Administrator
Washington 25, D.C.

Attachment for use with
Statement by HHFA Administrator
Albert M. Cole on March 15, 1956,
on modernization of home design.

FOR RELEASE
Thursday,
March 15, 1956

SOME OF THE QUESTIONS FOR WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS
SEEKING ANSWERS IN CONNECTION WITH
ITS REVIEW OF ITS PRESENT HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

1. With the increased use of automobiles and school buses, what is now considered the maximum practicable distance from a house to primary and secondary schools, to shopping facilities, churches, recreational facilities, etc.?
2. With the development in house planning, the use of outdoor space is changing. Should our requirements on minimum size lots be changed to permit this development? Should lots be wider and should we accept lots that are not as deep, realizing the extra costs involved in streets and utilities?
3. With the changes noted in (2) above, should consideration be given to minimizing the building set back line to allow the house to be nearer the street in order to use the back yards which are safer and more usable with respect to privacy?
4. Our present requirements for street layouts in subdivisions usually include curved streets to provide greater safety by reduction of automobile speeds and at the same time assure some variation in appearance. Do women like them and dead-end streets or cul-de-sacs often employed in our planning?
5. Bearing in mind the maintenance of a long driveway involved in interior lots (that is, those lots not fronting on a street but merely connected by a right-of-way) do women feel that these disadvantages are outweighed by a safer playing space for children and more privacy for the family?
6. Open planning within the house has raised many questions concerning present requirements. Is the so-called kitchen-breakfast room or the family room in which kitchen equipment might be installed, making in effect a larger kitchen, believed to be the present trend? This assumes a living room in addition, which might be smaller than now required in order to make the family room of a livable size.
7. Is the trend toward all-purpose rooms, in connection with very small bedrooms, more desired than the family room described in (6) above?

Requirements now do not always permit an arrangement for an all-purpose room with two or more bedrooms opening off it, since in planning, the bathroom would have to be reached from the bedrooms by crossing the all-purpose room.

8. What is the current thinking on windows in small bedrooms? In the past few years many bedrooms have been built with sills at perhaps a height of four to five feet above the floor. This arrangement permits easier placement of furniture, but is perhaps a potential fire hazard, since older people and children might not be able, even where the bedroom is on the first floor, to get out in case the normal means of egress is blocked.
9. With the increasing size of houses, should requirements for two bathrooms be set up for all houses with three or more bedrooms?
10. Should requirements permit laundry equipment to be installed in the hall to the bedroom? At present, this equipment must be placed either in the kitchen, basement, or utility room.
11. There is a great difference of opinion concerning storage space. What is a reasonable minimum for a two-bedroom, three-bedroom, or four-bedroom house? How much of this storage space should be accessible from inside and how much from outside the house? What, in general, is the optimum shape for the various types of storage space required?
12. There has been considerable question on the maximum usable height of shelving in kitchens and elsewhere in the house. Perhaps all shelving can be considered usable, but there is a difference between shelving which requires the use of stepladders and shelving which will be used in the day-to-day operations in a kitchen.
13. Is the wall type oven a fad, or do people consider that this piece of equipment, together with others used often, such as refrigerators, should be at a higher level than in the past?
14. There is a definite trend to cook in other parts of the house or outside. Should provision in the way of heavier electrical service be provided on outdoor terraces, living rooms, and even bedrooms where people may occasionally cook breakfast?
15. Many basement areas have been converted to recreation rooms. These rooms are often used more than any other spaces in the house, except kitchens. If so, perhaps our requirements are not sufficiently stringent. How much light and ventilation should be required? Should they be treated as habitable rooms?

16. Minimum space requirements for various habitable rooms have always posed difficult questions and vary considerably under different regulations. What is considered the minimum size for the following: living, dining, all-purpose and family rooms, kitchens and bedrooms, together with the various combinations of rooms now appearing?
17. Is the trend toward split-level and tri-level houses a fad, or is it here to stay? Is the increased privacy and space gained more desired than the necessity for stairs?
18. Should garages or carports be required with direct access to dwelling in certain classes of housing?
19. Should off-street space for parking of car be required?
20. Should a clothes closet be required to be near front entrance? Is it necessary particularly in lower cost housing when space is at a premium?
21. Should an only bathroom be required to have a bathtub or may a shower be acceptable in lieu of a tub?
22. Should screens be required for windows and doors of dwellings?

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HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY
Office of the Administrator
Washington 25, D. C.

APR 26 1956

Housing and Home Finance Agency
Office of the Administrator
LIBRARY

Suggested Radio-TV Spot Announcement
(EX. 3-4160, ext. 4433)

March 21, 1956

Here's a call to all housewives to have their say about the homes they live in and take care of. The call has been issued by the Government's top housing official, Housing and Home Finance Administrator Albert M. Cole. With the greater opportunities for leisure and the labor-saving advances that the home industry has made in recent years, Administrator Cole feels this is a good time to hear from the homemakers themselves about what they want that is within their means and what improvements can be made in the design and planning of modern homes for family living. These letters will give the housewife's viewpoint to the Government for its own requirements under its housing programs and will help inform the builders, lenders, architects, and others in the industry about what the homemaker thinks about the home of today. These letters will also help the Administrator select typical housewives throughout the country to come to Washington for a Woman's Congress on Housing to discuss these problems with Government officials and industry leaders. If you want to give the Government your ideas about the home you live in and how it can be better planned for the way you live today, just write a letter, between now and mid-April, to the Housing Administrator, Washington 25, D.C. He wants to know what you, the homemaker, think about the modern home.

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GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
1734 N Street
Washington, D.C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mrs. Theodore S. Chapman of Jerseyville, Illinois, President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, yesterday joined the forces supporting a recent proposal of Housing and Home Finance Administrator, Albert M. Cole, that a "Woman's Congress on Housing" be held in Washington to enable the nation's homemakers to make known ways by which the modern home can be improved. "The majority of the women in this country are homemakers," Mrs. Chapman said, "and they know that poor housing is frequently the result of poor design.

"Most of the social improvements that have come about in this country in the past sixty-five years, such as the penny lunch programs for children in the schools, the book-mobiles which have brought culture into isolated homes, the marshaling of public opinion against child labor, prison reforms, The Pure Food and Drug Act are a result of women's views being brought to the attention of the lawmakers and the public.

"I cannot agree with Congressman Quigley of Pennsylvania, who is quoted as having said, 'Why housing authorities would be interested in learning what the women of this country want in a house is beyond my comprehension.'

"I believe the members of the Congress should know what women feel are basic reforms in Federal, state and local housing projects. Who knows better than the housewife how to utilize work space in the home, and the kinds of storage space needed, about lighting and air and conveniences generally? I believe that if women have the opportunity to make known their time and step-saving ideas, as well as other observations as to safety and efficiency, that all America would benefit by housing that produces more for the money, and meets today's housing needs more adequately.

"I hope the Federal Government will give women a chance to suggest positive improvements to better and more comfortable housing.

"I enthusiastically approve Mr. Cole's plan as the only really sensible and practical way to set standards for adequate housing."

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Office of the Administrator
Federal Housing Administration
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APR 26 1956

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FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

HHFA-OA-No. 980
(EX. 3-4160, ext. 4433)

Nearly 1500 housewives have responded enthusiastically in the first ten days to Housing and Home Finance Administrator Albert M. Cole's invitation for them to write him their views on what the modern home should be like. Letters to the Housing Administrator continue to come in at the rate of about two hundred a day.

"The housewives are most enthusiastic in their response," Mr. Cole said. "All of them say they are grateful for an opportunity to express their views on a subject that is very close to their hearts. One of the writers, for example, said this was the best thing that has happened since the Boston Tea Party."

Mr. Cole also announced that the Woman's Congress on Housing, at which the suggestions made in the letters will be discussed by about 100 women from all parts of the country, will be held on April 23, 24, and 25, at the Washington Hotel in Washington, D. C.

Mr. Cole said that the bulk of the letters received reflect serious and practical thinking on the home as a place for modern family life.

"While the women have many kinds of ideas on how the home can be better tailored to family needs, they in general seem to like most of the basic trends in modern design that accent fuller family living and few of them are critical of the present-day building industry."

Miss Annabelle Heath, HHFA Assistant Administrator, who is directing plans for the meeting, said that her review of the letters thus far shows a strong demand for fuller family life.

"The letters indicate that the American family is growing closer together rather than farther apart, and that the home has again become the center of attraction," she said.

"The women of America look upon the home not simply as a place of shelter where members of the families eat and sleep and then go their merry, separate ways between those necessary activities.

"Their letters express a dynamic feeling for a home, where the members of their families spend the best parts of their lives growing up together in each other's company.

"The house they live in must lend itself to this purpose, and the letters from the housewives show what they mean.

"Many of the housewives have written that they want a family room, which they define as a large room with cooking, eating and play space, something like the old-fashioned kitchen. The small kitchen is out, they say, explaining that they want space for the children to be in the kitchen with them to watch or help them cook. They also want space for eating most of the meals right in the kitchen. And then after the evening meal they say they want to be able to push the table to the wall and use this family room for games, TV, and other diversions.

"They emphasize that when they speak of an old-fashioned kitchen they don't mean giving up any of the modern labor-saving devices. They want the space and warmth but not the drudgery of the old-fashioned kitchen.

"The housewives who advocate the large 'family room' say they realize that they must sacrifice space elsewhere in the house. Some are willing to settle for a small living room which would serve pretty much like the old-fashioned parlor and be a place for quiet relaxation such as reading and music and for receiving guests. Others would save space by reducing bedroom sizes, pointing out that bedrooms are used mainly for sleeping and therefore needn't be much larger than the space required for beds and for dressing.

"The place of TV in the home receives much attention in the letters but the suggestions as to where the TV set should be located differ. Some think it should be in the kitchen so that the housewife can watch it during the day while preparing meals and where the family can gather around it in the evening after dinner, thus leaving the living room or some other part of the house quiet for those who might want to read or study or listen to music. Others suggest putting the TV in the basement or rumpus room.

"Some of the letters make out a case for a separate dining room, saying it is necessary for more formal occasions and to accustom the children to the more formal requirements of eating out. Others think a separate dining room is unnecessary since only a small part of the day is spent in it.

"The letters show a high degree of consistency about what the housewives want in a home, especially in their desire for a family room, but they differ in their suggestions as to design and arrangement.

"The importance of well-planned storage space is also stressed in many of the letters, with some favoring ground level space, others attics and basements."

Statements in the letters about their husbands' occupations and income indicate that the bulk of the letters are from middle-income families now living in houses ranging in price from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

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March 30, 1956

HOUSING and HOME
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APR 26 1956

Housing and Home Finance Agency
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HHFA-CA-No. 984
(EX. 3-4160, ext. 4433)

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

Housewives in the thousands have responded enthusiastically to Housing and Home Finance Administrator Albert M. Cole's invitation for them to write him their views on what the modern home should be like. Letters to the Housing Administrator are being received at the rate of about two hundred a day.

"The housewives are most enthusiastic in their response," Mr. Cole said. "All of them say they are grateful for an opportunity to express their views on a subject that is very close to their hearts. One of the writers, for example, said this was the best thing that has happened since the Boston Tea Party."

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"The women of America look upon the home not simply as a place of shelter where members of the families eat and sleep and then go their merry, separate ways between those necessary activities.

"Their letters express a dynamic feeling for a home, where the members of their families spend the best parts of their lives growing up together in each other's company.

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Statements in the letters about their husbands' occupations and income indicate that the bulk of the letters are from middle-income families now living in houses ranging in price from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

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HHFA-OA-No. 985
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FOR IMMEDIATE
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Invitations went out this week from Housing and Home Finance Administrator Albert M. Cole to the first group of housewives to be delegates to the Women's Congress on Housing which the Housing and Home Finance Agency has called in Washington on April 23, 24, and 25.

Those able to accept will be among the 100 housewives who will meet with Agency officials to develop their views and ideas on home planning for modern family living as a guide to government housing standards and requirements and for industry use in the planning of future American homes.

Most of those invited, according to Miss Annabelle Heath, Assistant Administrator in charge of the conference, were chosen as a result of letters to the Housing Administrator giving their ideas on family home planning.

"Out of the three thousand letters received thus far," Miss Heath said, "many hundreds have merited serious consideration for their understanding of family needs and practical ideas, all of which have provided an invaluable source for conference discussion.

"Those selected were not necessarily the best written letters submitted, but were considered generally representative of varying types of problems on the minds of American housewives as they relate to different parts of the country, different income levels, and different family considerations, such as those with young families, those with children in their teens, and those with different types of background and interests.

"What we are seeking in this conference is as broad and representative a cross-section of characteristic family living in the homes of America as possible."

Additional invitations to bring the total group up to about 100 women will be issued during the coming week to assure adequate time for the housewives to prepare for their Washington visit.

A list and brief account of the housewives thus far invited is attached.

List No. 1

Following is a partial list of the housewives who have been invited by Administrator Albert M. Cole of the Housing and Home Finance Agency to be delegates to the Women's Congress on Housing to be held in Washington April 23, 24 and 25.

MRS. MAGNUS EDWARDS, Bristol, Vermont.

Mrs. Edwards is a housewife, a mother of six children, ranging in age from 4 to 15, and the owner and operator of a mail order gift business. Her husband is a mechanical buyer with the state of Vermont. She is active in local and civic affairs. The Edwards live in a section that has been built up for 100 years but which has been well kept up.

MRS. PETER S. KING, 108 Wright Street, Arlington, Mass.

Mrs. King is a housewife, the mother of two children ages 9 and 4, and the wife of an assistant professor of marketing at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is active in civic affairs. The Kings rent their home in a new development close to Boston.

MRS. JAMES E. PRIER, 128 Dawes Avenue, Syracuse, N.Y.

Mrs. Prier is a housewife, mother of four children ranging in age from 2 to 7, and wife of an assistant professor of micro-biology at New York State College of Medicine. The Priers live in a Cape Cod house which they bought three years ago but which is now too small.

MRS. HARRIETT P. PITT, 20 Croton Avenue, Hastings-On-Hudson, N.Y.

Mrs. Pitt is a housewife and mother of three children ranging from 15 months to 9 years of age. Her husband is publicity director of Time, Inc. The family lives in a 30-year old 10-room suburban home.

MRS. BENJAMIN GREENSPON, 30 Hillside Avenue, Roslyn, N.Y.

Mrs. Greenspon is a housewife, the mother of two children age 4 and 5. Her husband is an optometrist. The family lives in a 40 year old 6-room house in a good suburban area.

MRS. ESTELLE BORKER, 67-53 212 Street, Bayside, N.Y.

Mrs. Borker describes herself as "a teacher and graduate student in home economics, a homemaker and mother, a homeowner and perennial house hunter." Her three children range in age from 5 to 11. Her husband is a chemist with General Foods, Hoboken, N.J. In addition to maintaining her home and caring for her family, Mrs. Borker is taking her Master's degree in education at Hunter College, preparatory to returning to teaching. The Borkers live in...

a 6-room semi-detached house which is too small for their needs. They have been house-hunting for the last four years.

MRS. WILLIAM PRESCOTT WHITE, 13 Summit Avenue, Baldwin, N.Y.

Mrs. White describes herself as "a happy housewife" with two teen-aged children, 15 and 18 years old. Her husband is division plant superintendent for the N.Y. Telephone Company. Both she and her husband are active in civic affairs. They have lived for 20 years in a suburban home.

MRS. TAD TANAKA, 945 Columbus Avenue, New York City

Mrs. Tanaka is a housewife and the mother of four children, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 years of age. Her husband is a restauranter. They live in a 5-room railroad flat in a 5-story brick building which contains two stories and 14 apartments. The building is between 55 and 60 years old.

MRS. A.M. COMPTON, Jr., Box 369, Richmond, Virginia

Mrs. Compton is a housewife, the mother of three children, ages 10, 4 and 2. Her husband is a mechanic. They live in their own home in the suburbs.

MRS. DAVID E. WEINGAST, 70 Millington Avenue, Newark, N.J.

Mrs. Weingast is a housewife and the mother of four children ranging in age from 5 to 11 years. Her husband is a high school principal. Mrs. Weingast is active in civic affairs. Her thesis at Union College was on "Modern Homes."

MRS. HERBERT K. HENRY, 509 Shortridge Drive, Wynnewood, Pa.

Mrs. Henry has two children, 12 and 17, is a college graduate, and active in civic affairs. Her husband is a merchandiser and they live in a suburban home built in 1947.

MRS. JAMES J. DUFFY, 1102 N. Van Buren Street, Allentown, Pa.

Mrs. Duffy has two children, is active in civic affairs, and has lived for the past eight years in a post-war suburban development. Her husband is a purchase inspector with the N.Y. City Transit Authority.

MRS. E. ALBERT TORRENCE, 159 Bunche Blvd., Wilmington, Del.

Mrs. Torrence is a housewife, and the mother of five children ranging in age from 14 years to 10 months. Her husband is an auto mechanic. The Torrences live in their own 5-room house in a development built in 1950-51. Mrs. Torrence is a member of her District School Board.

MRS. ALBERTA B. THOMAS, 3250 Oak Forest Drive, Jackson, Miss..

Mrs. Thomas is a housewife and the mother of two children, 9 and 11. Her husband is a geologist with an oil company. The family lives in a rental home in a suburban new development. Mrs. Thomas regularly visits new housing developments.

MRS. DONALD W. WEAVER, Jr., 303 Tucker Avenue, Winston Salem, N.C.

Mrs. Weaver is a housewife and the mother of four children, aged 3 to 10 years. Her husband is an electrical engineer. The family has lived in its own home for the past six years.

MRS. J.D. VAUDREY, 4503 Saunders Avenue, Nashville, Tenn.

Mrs. Vaudrey is a housewife and the mother of two children, one 4 years old and the other eight months. Before the birth of her second child, Mrs. Vaudrey was manager of a motel. Her husband is a bank adjuster. The family lives in a two-bedroom brick and frame dwelling located in a subdivision.

MRS. CARL C. SPIES, Jr., 8407 Virginia Road, Pleasure Ridge Park, Ky.

Mrs. Spies is a housewife and the mother of two children, ages 3 and 8½. Her husband is a chemical operator and is now studying for a Master's Degree while working. The family lives in a small 4 room home in a new development.

MRS. DAVID M. MAGILL, Capital Heights, Frankfort, Ky.

Mrs. Magill describes herself as "a mother, a housewife and the owner of a 4-year old home of original design." She has one child, a daughter of 7. Her husband is employed in the state Department of Revenue. Mrs. Magill is active in civic affairs. The Magills built their home in 1952. It is a ranch type house located in a good residential section in Frankfort.

MRS. R.D. NILES, 419 North Court Street, Sparta, Wisc.

Mrs. Niles is a housewife and the mother of two children, 3½ and 2 years of age. A registered nurse, she was formerly assistant Executive Secretary of the Missouri State Nurses' Association. Her husband is a parole officer with the State Department of Public Welfare. The family moved here recently from St. Louis.

MRS. RALPH KEMPE, 1242 North 85th St., Wauwatosa, Wisc.

Mrs. Kempe is a housewife and a mother of a son of 4. She is a former school teacher. Her husband is an industrial engineer. The family owns a Cape Cod house built in 1940 and located in a suburban area.

MRS. E. RHEE LYON, 823 Thacker Street, Des Plaines, Ill.

Mrs. Lyon is a housewife, the mother of a six-month old child and a graduate of Cornell. Her husband is an attorney. They live in their own home in an attractive, well-kept neighborhood in Des Plaines, a suburb of Chicago.

MRS. WARREN A. MCCONCHIE, 282 Lakewood Blvd., Park Forest, Ill.

Mrs. McConchie is a housewife and the mother of two children, ages 1 and 6. Her husband is a sales engineer. The family lives in a fairly new multifamily housing development. Mrs. McConchie is active in local civic organizations.

MRS. ROBERT S. OLSON, 8334 Cottage Grove Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

Mrs. Olson is a housewife, the mother of two children ages 3 and 5, and a writer. Her husband is associated with an electric manufacturing company. Mrs. Olson is active in local civic organizations. The Olsons live in an apartment type project in Chicago.

MRS. DAVID W. KNOWLES, Hamilton, Illinois

Mrs. Knowles is a housewife and the mother of four children, ages 8, 7, 5, and 8 months. Her husband is a grade school principal. She is active in PTA and Cub Scouts. The family lives in a rented house.

MRS. C.W. HALE, 5898 Soytgward Avenue, Waterford, Mich.

Mrs. Hale is a housewife and the mother of four children, ages 13, 12, 5 and 3. Her husband is a salesman of electronic equipment. The family is now living in a new 4-bedroom brick ranch house with no basement in a new development in a suburban location. It is the third house they have owned and this new home comes the closest to representing what Mrs. Hale thinks her family needs.

MRS. R.B. NELSON, 419 Oak Street, Mt. Morris, Michigan

Mrs. Nelson is a housewife and the mother of three children, 10 and 7 years and 11 months. Her husband is a layout man for an automobile manufacturing company. Mrs. Nelson is active in church and PTA work. The family has lived for two years in a two-story single-siding house in Mt. Morris, a suburb of Flint.

MRS. HUGH C. GARVER, Jr., 1318 Granger Avenue, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Mrs. Garver is the wife of the president of a manufacturing concern and has two children. They live in a well maintained 30-year-old home.

MRS. EARL N. DAGGY, Jr., Richmond, Route 3, Indiana

Mrs. Daggy is a housewife and the mother of two children, 8 and 12. Her husband operates a retail hardware store. Mr. and Mrs. Daggy are now building their third house. (They hire carpenters to put up the outer shell and they do the rest). At present they are living in the garage and breezeway of what will be a rather pretentious country home when finished. Mrs. Daggy is active in church, PTA and home demonstration work.

MRS. ROBERT E. OWEN, 555 Acorn Drive, Dayton, Ohio

Mrs. Owen is a housewife, and the mother of three children ranging from 8 months to 6 years. Her husband is an accountant. Mrs. Owen is a graduate of Indiana University, and prior to her marriage was a Medical Secretary. She is active in civic affairs. The family owns a 6-year old bungalow in suburban Oakwood.

MRS. WILLIAM J. CALLAGHAN, 835 Collingwood Drive, East Lansing, Mich.

Mrs. Callaghan is a housewife, the mother of two children aged 4 and 12, and a writer. Her husband is Professor of Philosophy at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. Mrs. Callaghan is active in civic affairs.

MRS. MARIETTA RATHBUN, 19366 Edinborough Road, Detroit, Michigan

Mrs. Rathbun is a housewife, and the mother of two girls, 6 and 3 years. Her husband is assistant manager of a food processing company. They live in their own 2-bedroom brick and frame bungalow. Mrs. Rathbun is active in church and civic affairs.

MRS. WALTER A. PREWETT, 1011 N. Washington St., Forrest City, Arkansas

Mrs. Prewett is a housewife, a school teacher, and the mother of two married children. She has been a homemaker for more than 30 years.

MRS. WILLIAM M. MOTEN, 1344 Campbell Road, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Mrs. Moten is a housewife, the mother of two girls, 3½ years and 10 months. Her husband is serving internship prior to practicing medicine. They now rent but look forward to owning their own home.

MRS. W.P. RATLIFF, Haskell, Texas

Mrs. Ratliff is a housewife, the mother of four children ranging in age from 19 to 6. Her husband is an attorney. They live in a house 40 years old and in which they have lived the last 10 years. She is active in PTA and church work.

MRS. T.W. KIRKSEY, 2216 Ansborough, Waterloo, Iowa

Mrs. Kirksey is a housewife and mother of three children, ranging in age from 7 to 1 year. Her husband is an electrical engineer with a local Television station. They bought their present home about 3 years ago. Mrs. Kirksey is college educated and is active in church and civic affairs.

MRS. BARBARA ANN PATNAUDE, 417 $\frac{1}{2}$ Myrtle Street, Sioux City, Iowa

Mrs. Patnaude is a housewife and mother of a girl and a boy, ages 4 and 3 respectively. Her husband is a machinist and lathe operator for a local manufacturer of radio parts. The Patnaudes rent a 4 room bungalow.

MRS. GEORGE ELLS, 1357 - 4th Street N., Fargo, N. Dak.

Mrs. Ells is a housewife and mother of 4 children, ranging in age from 14 to 5 years. Her husband is a dental laboratory operator. The Ells own their own home. Mrs. Ells is active in her PTA and other local civic groups.

MRS. GEORGE W. DAY, Route 1, Box 234, Huron, South Dakota

Mrs. Day is a custodial employee at a local high school. She is the mother of four children, ranging in age from 26 to 13 years. Only a teen-age son and daughter live at home. The house which they rent is 12 miles from town on a farm where Mr. Day works.

MRS. ALVIN L. BARTON, 2 Woodson Way, Columbia, Mo.

Mrs. Barton, a widow, is the mother of three grown sons with families who own their own homes. She is a college graduate and a former teacher. For the past 10 years she has lived in her own home. She is active in church affairs and local civic organizations.

MRS. C.W. PAYNE, 1675 E. Grand Street, Springfield, Mo.

Mrs. Payne is a housewife and mother of two children, ages 8 and 7. Her husband is a traveling salesman for a St. Louis rug and linoleum company. The Paynes live in their own home. Mrs. Payne is a member of the local PTA.

MRS. VIRGINIA WATSON, 3031 Birch Street, Denver, Colorado

Mrs. Watson is a housewife and mother of one daughter. Her husband owns a local transportation company. They live in a 25-year old house. Mrs. Watson is a college graduate, and active in community and civic affairs.

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APR 26 1956

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HHFA-OA-No. 987
(EX. 3-4160 - ext. 4433)

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

Statement by Norman P. Mason,
Commissioner of the Federal Housing Administration,
on the
Women's Congress on Housing, April 23, 24, 25

"FHA officials plan to attend all of the sessions of the Women's Congress on Housing.

"We will study carefully all the recommendations suggested by the group. Naturally we will welcome anything which will result in practical improvements.

"We feel sure that such a group will give us some such suggestions. That has been our experience with all the many advisory groups we have consulted during the two years I have been head of FHA.

"The FHA is interested in the Women's Congress for several reasons. Our principal responsibility, of course, is to provide an adequate financing system to facilitate home-buying, and this entails the application of construction and architectural standards. We currently have a special advisory committee of expert architects, engineers, and builders at work reviewing our minimum standards with a view to simplifying them and bringing them up to date.

"It seems to me that the views of the ultimate consumer, the housewives and homemakers, are a proper part of this picture. We ought to know what they are thinking; in fact, we owe it to ourselves as authorities in the housing field as well as to the general public."

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April 10, 1956

HOUSING and HOME
FINANCE AGENCY



Office of the Administrator
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OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
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APR 26 1956

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FOR IMMEDIATE
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Invitations have been sent out by Administrator Albert M. Cole of the Housing and Home Finance Agency to a second list of housewives to be delegates to the Women's Congress on Housing which the Agency has called in Washington on April 23, 24 and 25.

The second list contains 36 names which, added to the 41 names on the first list, brings the total now invited to the Congress to 77. Those able to accept will be among the 100 housewives who will meet with Agency officials to develop their views and ideas on home planning for modern family living as a guide to government housing standards and requirements and for industry use in planning future American homes.

Sessions will be held in the Washington Hotel.

The second group of housewives invited to the conference is attached.

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April 10, 1956

List No. 2

Following is an additional list of the housewives who have been invited by Administrator Albert M. Cole of the Housing and Home Finance Agency to be delegates to the Women's Congress on Housing to be held in Washington, April 23, 24 and 25.

MRS. ROBERT E. FRANZ, 71 Spruce Street, Stratford, Conn.

Mrs. Franz is a housewife and mother of two children. They live in their own home which they bought 3 years ago. Her husband is in the insurance business. Mrs. Franz is active in the local Junior Chamber of Commerce.

MRS. H. REID STERRETT, Jr., 1695 Ridge Road, North Haven, Conn.

MRS. W.J. MOORE, 1109 Washington Avenue, Pelham Manor, N. Y.

MRS. BERNICE PATTERSON, 547 West 157th Street, N. Y., N.Y.

Mrs. Patterson is a housewife and social worker, and the mother of a son who is six years old. Her husband is a bank clerk. Mrs. Patterson is a university graduate and active in civic affairs. The family lives in a rented multiple-dwelling.

MRS. RICHARD HELBIG, 1886 Winding Brook Way, Scotch Plains, Westfield, N.J.

MRS. FRED A. VANDENBERGH, Jr., 8750 Montgomery Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.

Mrs. Vandenberg is a housewife and the mother of two children. Her husband is a lawyer.

MRS. MARTIN CHUBIN, 4953 Whitaker Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa.

Mrs. Chubin is a housewife and the mother of two children, ages 3 months and 3 years. Her husband is partner in a food market. Mrs. Chubin is active in civic affairs. The Chubins live in a two-story brick row house in a new neighborhood.

MRS. IRMA A. CRISCUOLO, 5726 Euclid Street, Cheverly, Maryland

Mrs. Criscuolo is a housewife and the mother of two children, ages 14 and 19. Her husband is a bookbinder. She is active in her local church.

MRS. H. DANIEL DRAKE, Jr., 3301 Northampton St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Drake is a housewife and the mother of two children, 7 and 10. Her husband is in business for himself.

MRS. JOHN H. VORNDICK, 895 N. Kentucky St., Arlington, Va.

Mrs. VornDICK is a housewife and the mother of four children ranging in age from 3 to 18 years of age. Her husband is a photo engraver for the Evening Star. Mrs. VornDICK is active in church work.

MRS. C.E. BERRY, Jr., Bennettsville, S. C.

Mrs. Berry is a housewife. Her husband is in the automobile parts business.

MRS. PHILIP HAMMER, 3483 Ridgewood Road, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia

Mrs. Hammer is a housewife and the mother of three sons. Her husband is an economic consultant. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina. They own their own home.

MRS. PAUL BAILEY, Route 1, Greenback, Tenn.

Mrs. Bailey is a housewife and the mother of three children, 2 to 10 years of age. Her husband farms and works for the Aluminum Company of America. They live in a farm house which they remodeled.

MRS. WILLARD H. EAVES, 2715 Algonquin Avenue, Ashland, Ky.

MRS. JAMES O. UMPLEBY, 3502 Plum Street, Parkersburg, W. Va.

Mrs. Umpleby is a housewife and the mother of two children, 4 and 7. Her husband works for a wholesale grocery concern. She is active in church work.

MRS. JAMES E. GRAHAM, 848 Chester Road, Charleston, W. Va.

Mrs. Graham is a housewife and the mother of two children, 1 and 4. Her husband is a salesman in a furniture store. Mrs. Graham majored in home economics at West Virginia University. She is active in sorority and civic affairs. The Grahams live in their own home.

MRS. PATRICK T. ENGLEHART, 3995 Highland Street, Mogadore, Ohio

Mrs. Englehart is a housewife and the mother of two children, 3½ years and 19 months. Her husband is a copy editor for the Akron Beacon Journal. They live in a new home.

MRS. JOHN W. DUNBAR, 1015 Mulberry Street, Perrysburg, Ohio

Mrs. Dunbar is a housewife and the mother of three children, ages 8 months to 15 years. Her husband is a salesmanager. Mrs. Dunbar is active in civic affairs.

MRS. ROY H. WERNITZ, 6730 Magoun Ave., Hammond, Indiana

MRS. PATRICK SHEEDY, 4958 N. Cumberland Blvd., Whitefish Bay, Wisc.

MRS. WILLIAM R. SHARKEY, 727 Belgrade Avenue, North Mankato, Minn.

Mrs. Sharkey is a housewife. Her husband is a salesman for a milling company. The Sharkeys have one adopted child of three months and are taking care of another child of 18 years. Mrs. Sharkey graduated in home economics at the University of Illinois and is active in community theater and church work. They formerly lived in their own home but now rent.

MRS. RAYMOND G. NOEL, 926 58th Street, Des Moines, Iowa

MRS. E.H. SHOEMAKER, Jr., 410 W. Circle Drive, North Platte, Nebraska

Mrs. Shoemaker is a housewife, her husband a rancher.

MRS. IRWIN B. PETERSON, 11 West 7th Street, Grand Island, Nebraska

Mrs. Peterson is a housewife and the mother of four children 5 to 18 years of age. She is active in the PTA and a women's club. They have been homeowners for 20 years.

MRS. LAWRENCE BURROW, Jr., 5701 Michigan, Little Rock, Ark.

Mrs. Burrow is a housewife and mother of two children, ages 2 and 3½.

MRS. GEORGE W. TIPTON, 3419 Windsor Road, Austin, Texas

Mrs. Tipton is a housewife. Her husband is a physician.

MRS. DOROTHY WALTER, 3874 Dunhaven, Dallas, Texas

MRS. ROBERT M. MOORE, 112 Creston Drive, Pueblo, Colorado

MRS. AARON E. MARGULIS, 1664 Cerro Gordo Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Mrs. Margulis is a housewife and mother of 2 children. Her husband is a physician and pathologist. Mrs. Margulis is active in PTA and other civic organizations.

MRS. FRANCIS J. RYLEY, 4453 East Flower Street, Phoenix, Ariz.

Mrs. Ryley is a housewife. Her husband is a lawyer. She is active in civic affairs.

MRS. GEORGE WHITE, 1374 Maryland, Ogden, Utah

Mrs. White is a housewife. Her husband is a farmer.

MRS. WILLIAM C. FURCHNER, Blackfoot, Idaho

Mrs. Furchner is a housewife and the mother of two children. They own their own home.

MRS. LILLIAN GAINES, 1971 Funston Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

Mrs. Gaines is a housewife and mother of two children. The Gaines own their own home.

MRS. RAYMOND D. HULL, 2404 Summer Street, Eureka, California

Mrs. Hull is a housewife, the office manager for an investment firm, and the mother of two children, 7 and 5 years of age. Her husband is a driver for a cleaning establishment. Mrs. Hull is active in church and civic work. A native of Italy and a war bride, she taught school in Italy before coming to this country. The Hulls live in their own home, a 35-year old two-story house with three bedrooms and one bath.

MRS. MASON D. MCQUISTON, 1195 North 15th St., Salem, Oregon

MRS. R.H. BELL, 503 North 172nd Street, Seattle, Wash.

Mrs. Bell is a housewife and mother of 2 children. She is interested in community affairs.

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APR 26 1956

HHFA-OA-No. 991
(EX. 3-4160, ext. 4433)

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FOR RELEASE
Sunday
April 15, 1956

The housing needs and wants of American families as they vary geographically and climatically in different parts of the country will be analyzed and discussed at the Women's Congress on Housing to be held here on April 23, 24, and 25.

The conference has been called by Administrator Albert M. Cole of the Housing and Home Finance Agency. It will be attended by about 100 housewives invited by Mr. Cole, largely on the basis of several thousand letters received by him in which the housewives expressed their views on what the modern home should be like.

The general plan of the conference was announced today by Miss Annabelle Heath, HHFA Assistant Administrator, who is directing arrangements for the conference and who will act as chairman of the conference.

The conference will be held in the Hall of Nations at the Washington Hotel in Washington, D. C.

The opening session will be held on Monday morning, April 23, with Mr. Cole addressing the general session. The delegates will then be divided into ten or twelve groups which will be set up on a geographical basis.

The purpose of such a division is to enable each groups of housewives to concentrate its analysis and discussions on the housing needs and problems in areas with generally similar climatic and other requirements.

The discussion groups will have available professional advisers from the Agency, particularly in architecture, home and neighborhood planning, whose functions it will be to advise the groups on such technical and professional matters as space requirements, cost factors, design, and lot locations.

These working discussion groups will begin their sessions at the Monday morning session after Mr. Cole's opening remarks and continue through the Tuesday afternoon session.

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The discussion groups will follow a broadly planned agenda which has been developed out of the several thousand letters received and which reflect major questions and problems for which American housewives want to get answers.

The subject fields to be discussed will include home planning -- that is, the design of the interior of the house with special attention to the kitchen, the family room, dining space, and play space -- and other aspects of housing, including the exterior of the house, the site, the yard area and neighborhood, community facilities, and general questions on home financing.

The basic findings and views of the groups will be reported and summarized at a general session Wednesday morning.

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The general session will be held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City, on Wednesday, June 15, 1955, at 10:00 A.M. The session will be held in the ballroom of the hotel.

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FOR IMMEDIATE
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The Housing and Home Finance Agency today announced a third and final list of housewives who have been invited by HHFA Administrator Albert M. Cole to serve as delegates to the Women's Congress on Housing to be held here next Monday through Wednesday.

A few additional housewives may be invited to fill vacancies of any who have already been invited but who are unable to accept.

In making the final selections, a number of women were included because of their special experience and qualifications in home and community planning and women's activities which can be of particular value to the delegates in organizing and developing their discussions.

After Mr. Cole's remarks at the general session next Monday opening the Congress, the delegates will be divided into groups which will be set up on a geographical basis. This will enable each group to concentrate its discussions on the housing needs and problems in areas with generally similar climatic and other requirements.

The third and final list of invited delegates is attached.

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April 17, 1956

List No. 3

MRS. RALPH E. PETERS, 19 Edgefield Road, Waban, Mass.

Mrs. Peters is a housewife and the mother of two boys. Her husband is a company official. She is a graduate of Radcliffe College.

MRS. GEORGE ROGGEMAN, 204 North Grove Street, Valley Stream, Long Island, N.Y.

MISS JANET SHAIR, New York, N.Y.

Miss Shair is Director of Women's Service Activities for the National American Cancer Society. She is experienced in adult education.

MRS. LOUIS NUSSMAN, Oldham Road, Preakness, N.J.

Mrs. Nussman is a housewife who, after much research, had an architect design her dream house according to her own specifications, orientation and room arrangement. It is modern and she calls it "Tomorrow."

MRS. EDMUND BACON, 2117 Locust Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Mrs. Bacon is a housewife and the mother of five children. She has been active in PTA and YWCA work. She has done nursery school work for the past 15 years. She is a member of various committees interested in the problems of housing for family living.

MRS. RALPH P. GOLDEN, 802 Lynda Lane, Green Valley, McKeesport, Pa.

Mrs. Golden is a housewife and is also employed in New York City. She has two daughters, ages 11 and 12. She is active in church and civic affairs. The Golden's live in their own home in a rural suburb.

MRS. ELIZABETH BETTNER, 3189 Florida Avenue, Coconut Grove, Florida

Mrs. Bettner is a housewife with one child, a daughter of 13. Her husband is supervisor of maintenance for Pan American Airways. Mrs. Bettner is a past president of the local PTA, head of Civil Defense in Coconut Grove, and active in the Red Cross and Youth Symphony group.

MRS. ROSALIE EHART, 567 N.E. 109th Street, Miami, Florida

MRS. JOHN B. WOOD, 4211 9th Court South, Birmingham, Alabama

MRS. JANET CLANCY, 4335 Meadowridge, Jackson, Mississippi

MRS. WOODFORD PORTER, 4511 Greenwood Avenue, Louisville, Ky.

Mrs. Porter is a housewife and a teacher in high school. She has five children ranging in age from 11 to 6. She is a graduate of Fisk University and Louisville Municipal College.

MRS. VICTOR STRAUSS, 8420 Indian Hill Road, Cincinnati, Ohio

MRS. JAMES H. HICKEY, 2460 Kingswood Drive East, Springfield, Ohio

Mrs. Hickey is a housewife and the mother of three children, ages 3 to 8. Her husband is chief administrative planner of the Springfield Clark County Regional Planning Commission.

MRS. STANLEY ANDERSON, Verda Drive, Lake Forest, Illinois

MRS. FOREST GREENWOOD, 502 West Greenbay Street, Shawano, Wisconsin

Mrs. Greenwood is a housewife and the mother of five children, ages 2 to 8. Her husband is a manufacturer's representative. They live in a 4-bedroom house.

MRS. WILLIAM E. BUTLER, 2422 11th Avenue East, Hibbing, Minnesota

Mrs. Hibbing is a housewife and the mother of six children, 4 to 16 years. Her hobby is house planning, design, materials and construction methods. She designed and made working drawings of two homes in which her family has lived. Mrs. Butler has a Master's degree from New York University. She is active in church and civic affairs.

MRS. EDWARD L. MARTIN, 3205 Regal Place, St. Louis, Missouri

Mrs. Martin is a housewife and the mother of three children, ages 8 to 11. Her husband is a commercial photographer. She is active in Girl Scout and church work. The Martins live in their own home.

MRS. CLARA LOUISE MEYERS, 1010 Conley Street, Columbia, Missouri

Mrs. Meyers is a housewife, a widow, and professor of community organization at the University of Missouri. She lives with her mother and brother.

MRS. EVERETT SUGARBAKER, 2113 West Main Street, Jefferson City, Missouri

Mrs. Sugarbaker is a housewife and the mother of 10 children. Her husband is a surgeon. Mrs. Sugarbaker is active in church work.

MRS. MARY IHINGER, 1117 West 6th Street, Topeka, Kansas

Mrs. Ihinger is a widow. She has been engaged in welfare work over a number of years. She has also studied housing problems.

MRS. HELEN GANT, 747 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas

Mrs. Gant is Executive Director of Family and Children Service in Kansas City, Kansas.

MRS. ROBERT H. HINZ, 701 Columbia Street, Leavenworth, Kansas

MRS. JAMES DYKES, 912 Schwartz Road, Lawrence, Kansas

Mrs. Dykes is a housewife and the mother of two children. Her husband teaches journalism at Kansas University. A PTA president, Mrs. Dykes is also active in Cub Scouts and cultural organizations.

MRS. GRANT HESS, 417 Continental Bank Bldg., Boise, Idaho

Mrs. Hess is a housewife who has raised her family. She has been state leader of the Cancer Society in Idaho for a number of years.

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FOR RELEASE
Friday, A.M.
April 20, 1956

HHFA-OA-No. 995
(EX. 3-4160, ext. 4133)

Delegates to the Women's Congress on Housing, to be held here next Monday through Wednesday, will visit the White House where they will be greeted by Mrs. Eisenhower and will also be guests at industry-sponsored luncheons and a buffet reception, Miss Annabelle Heath, HHFA Assistant Administrator, conference chairman, announced today.

The conference was called by Administrator Albert M. Cole of the Housing and Home Finance Agency to give housewives of America an opportunity to express their views on what the modern home should be like.

The visit to the White House will be at noon Tuesday, immediately after the morning session and before the Tuesday luncheon.

All three luncheions will be held at the Willard Hotel.

Speakers at the Monday luncheon will be Walter Williams, Under Secretary of Commerce, and Dean Francis B. Sayre, Jr. of the Washington Cathedral. Mr. Williams was in the real estate and mortgage banking business prior to his appointment as Under Secretary of Commerce. Frank J. Meistrell, Deputy HHFA Administrator, will preside. The host at the luncheon will be the Prefabricated Home Manufacturers Institute.

Dr. Kenneth McFarland, educational consultant and lecturer for General Motors, will be the main speaker at the Tuesday luncheon. A native of Kansas, he took his undergraduate work at Pittsburgh State College in Kansas, and earned a Master's degree at Columbia University and a Doctor's degree at Stanford University. An educator for 24 years, he designed and built a trade school at Coffeyville, Kansas, which has been named for him. Norman P. Mason, Commissioner of the Federal Housing Administration, will preside. The host at the luncheon will be the National Association of Real Estate Boards.

Mrs. Jean Rindlaub, advertising executive, and specialist in the tastes and preferences of the modern woman, will be the main speaker at the Wednesday luncheon. In addition to her business career, Mrs. Rindlaub is the mother of two children, ages 21 and 18, is a member of the Board of Governors of the National Safety Council, a member of the Board of the Community Chest in her home of Teaneck, N. J., and has been active in other community affairs. Mrs. Rindlaub is vice president of the advertising firm of Batten, Barton, Durstine and Osborn. Miss Heath, Assistant HHFA Administrator and chairman of the Women's Congress on Housing, will preside. The host at the luncheon will be the National Retail Lumber Dealers Association.

The buffet reception will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the National Housing Center, sponsored by the National Home Builders Association. In addition to being guests at the buffet, the delegates will be shown through the National Housing Center's extensive exhibits of building materials, models of construction techniques, and home appliances.

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HHFA-OA-No. 996
(EX. 3-4160, ext. 4433)

Ten delegates to the Women's Congress on Housing with special experience in discussion leadership have been designated as discussion leaders for the ten working groups during the first two days of the conference opening at the Washington Hotel on Monday, April 23, at 9:00 a.m.

The conference of about 100 housewives has been called by Housing and Home Finance Administrator Albert M. Cole to obtain the ideas of American housewives from all parts of the country on home planning and design to serve modern living needs. The views of the delegate housewives will be developed in ten discussion groups set up on a geographic basis.

The function of the discussion leaders will be to guide the discussion along the subject lines of the two-day agenda, so that all delegates are given opportunity to express their views, and to see that the views expressed in each group are properly reflected in the reports that will be later issued to the conference.

The ten delegate-leaders will receive a briefing on the procedures and agenda of the conference Sunday afternoon from Administrator Cole and from Assistant Administrator Annabelle Heath, who is chairman of the three-day women's housing congress.

The discussion leaders for the group sessions are:

MRS. CLARA LOUISE MEYERS, 1010 Conley Street, Columbia, Missouri.

Mrs. Meyers is a professor of community organization at the University of Missouri. She has had much experience working with groups.

MRS. EVERETT SUGARBAKER, 2113 West Main Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.

The mother of ten children, Mrs. Sugarbaker is a member of the City Board of Education, active in church work, and a leader in civic affairs.

MRS. GRANT HESS, 417 Continental Bank Building, Boise, Idaho.

Mrs. Hess has been a state leader of the Cancer Society in Idaho for a number of years.

MRS. MARY IHINGER, 1117 West 6th Street, Topeka, Kansas.

Mrs. Ihinger has been active for some time in the field of social welfare. Through her experience she has an intimate knowledge of housing problems.

MRS. HELEN GANT, 747 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas.

Mrs. Gant is executive director of Family and Children's Service.

MISS JANET SHAIR, 521 West 57th Street, New York City.

Miss Shair is Director of the Women's Service Activities of the National American Cancer Society. She is experienced in adult education and a specialist in working with small groups.

MRS. EDMUND BACON, 2117 Locust Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Mrs. Bacon is a member of various committees interested in the problems of housing. Mrs. Bacon is active in PTA and YWCA work and has been engaged in nursery school work for the past 15 years. She is the mother of five children.

MRS. ROSALIE EHART, 567 N.E. 109th Street, Miami, Florida.

A graduate in chemistry and mathematics from the University of Miami, Mrs. Ehart is president and chairman of the board of Collins Laboratory. The mother of two children, ages 4 and 10, she has been active in civic affairs both here and in Indiana where she lived prior to coming to Florida. She has been a voluntary worker for the U. S. State Department with International Education Exchange Service.

MRS. STANLEY ANDERSON, Lake Forest, Illinois

Mrs. Anderson is a housewife and mother of three children, ages 14 to 18. She is a leader in civic affairs, serving as chairman of the Red Cross and Polio campaigns. She is also active in the Lake Forest Day School.

MRS. ROBERT C. BALDRIDGE, 232 Causeway Road, Cedarhurst, L.I., N. Y.

Mrs. Baldrige is a housewife and mother of two children, ages 4 and 6. She is a member of the Board of the Five Towns Branch of the American Red Cross, active in community affairs and a leader in her church.

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April 20, 1956

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HHFA-OA-No. 997
(EX. 3-4160, ext. 4433)

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FOR RELEASE
Monday P.M.
April 23, 1956

Housing and Home Finance Administrator Albert M. Cole, in welcoming the 100 housewife delegates to the Women's Congress on Housing in Washington today, said that he knew of "no better source of advice on how the modern home can serve more of our family needs than the homemaker."

"You are the most active and experienced practitioners in the art of making houses into homes," he said. "One of the best ways I know for us to learn more about the modern home in terms of modern living is to ask the woman who runs one."

The housewives' conference started three days of discussion meetings on all aspects of home planning today at the Hotel Washington under the chairmanship of HHFA Assistant Administrator Annabelle Heath. Findings of the conference, which will come out of two days of geographically arranged group discussions, will be reported at the final session Wednesday morning, April 25.

"We have a very practical reason in the Housing Agency for wanting to hear what you have to suggest," the Housing Administrator told the housewives. "In some of our most important Agency responsibilities -- through the underwriting by FHA of billions in housing investment and through financial aid given towns and cities throughout the country to rehabilitate and redevelop outworn urban areas for better community living -- we are dealing constantly in housing futures.

"Every day the HHFA and its constituent agencies are called upon to exercise judgments as to the future shape and needs of America's homes and neighborhoods for a generation to come. On the basis of these judgments, we must pledge the credit and good faith of the Government -- that is to say, of the people of the United States."

Through such judgments, Mr. Cole said, the FHA over the past 20 years has already had a vast and beneficial effect on the course and quality of homebuilding, neighborhoods, and home ownership. And what it does today, he added, will have possibly an even greater effect on the pattern of our lives in the next 20 years.

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"Our living habits are undergoing rapid change through greater opportunities, the labor-saving devices, the higher incomes, the more bountiful supply of personal goods and increased advantages in family pursuits and recreation that we now enjoy.

"It is not only a responsibility of the housing industry and of local community leadership to keep abreast of these changes, but it is also no less a responsibility of the Government to do the same. We need and we seek all the advice and counsel we can get."

In the past, Mr. Cole said, the Agency has called upon builders, lenders, planners, architects, realtors, housing authorities, and many others to help guide it in carrying out its work. Today, for the first time, the HHFA is calling on another "very important and influential group -- the homemakers" -- to seek their help and advice.

"That is why we asked you to come here today. A few people -- a few men, of course -- think this will serve no purpose, that we should go blindly ahead with no concern about what the managers of our homes think or want.

"I don't think we should. And several thousand American housewives have written me that they don't think so either. They want to be heard, and they should be heard.

"You are here to speak for them and for many, many more. You were selected for this conference not because you were special, but because your experience and thinking was representative of that of a great many typical American homemakers.

"You are here to represent them, to help us learn through you what they think, what they want, and what they need."

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APR 26 1956

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HHFA-OA-No. 998
(EX. 3-4160, ext. 4433)

FOR RELEASE
After 10 a.m.
Mon., Apr. 23, 1956

At the opening of the Women's Congress on Housing in Washington today, Miss Annabelle Heath, Assistant Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency and chairman of the Congress, read the following letter from President Eisenhower:

"TO THE WOMEN'S CONGRESS ON HOUSING

"I am delighted to welcome you to this Women's Congress on Housing. I am sure that your sessions will prove constructive, that agencies of the Federal Government will benefit from them, and that you will also benefit.

"As you know, the Housing and Home Finance Agency and its constituents are vested with tremendous responsibilities in the field of housing, amounting in monetary terms to many billions of dollars. In order to fulfill such responsibilities and to safeguard the investments involved, these agencies frequently call upon advisory groups of experts, invited to Washington to give the Government counsel and advice.

"Yet, ultimately it is the housewife, the homemaker, who is most concerned with developments affecting the home. New methods of building, new materials, new inventions of all kinds, tend to induce a change in living patterns of which she is the center. But the opposite is also the case. When living patterns change within the home, these in turn give an impetus to new technological advances.

"It is important that the appropriate agencies of Government, in surveying these matters, should acquaint themselves with all points of view. Where the home is involved no point of view can be more important than that of the homemaker. You are experts in your own right, and I am delighted that your views are being brought directly to bear."

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April 19, 1956

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It is important that the appropriate agencies of government, in surveying these matters, should acquaint themselves with all points of view. Where the home is involved no point of view can be more important than that of the homemaker. You are experts in your own right, and I am delighted that your views are being brought directly to bear.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

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APR 26 1956

HHFA-OA-No. 999
(EX. 3-4160, ext. 4433)

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FOR RELEASE
Sunday
April 22, 1956

About 100 housewives from all sections of the country are gathering in Washington this weekend as delegates to the Women's Congress on Housing which opens tomorrow (Monday, April 23). They were invited here by Administrator Albert M. Cole of the Housing and Home Finance Agency to discuss and advise the Government on the needs of the modern home from the standpoint of the family and the housewife.

The delegates come from big cities and small towns and villages. Some live in large sprawling homes in the country; others in small, compact Cape Cods, or even apartments; many of them live in suburbia. The cost of their homes and the amount of their family income ranges from low to moderately high, with most of them falling in the medium bracket. But the delegates have one thing in common: they are housewives with families and they all have a deep interest in making the American home a better place in which to raise a family.

Most of the delegates were chosen on the basis of letters received from some 4,000 women in which they set forth their ideas on what the modern home should be like.

"The response to Mr. Cole's invitation to send in these letters has been most satisfying in showing the deep and widespread interest on this subject and most helpful to us in formulating the agenda for the conference," said Miss Annabelle Heath, HHFA Assistant Administrator and Director of the Congress.

The conference will be held at the Washington Hotel, with morning and afternoon sessions on Monday and Tuesday and a final session on Wednesday. Between sessions the delegates will be guests at several events, including a visit to the White House where they will be greeted by Mrs. Eisenhower, industry-sponsored luncheons and a buffet reception.

Administrator Cole will address the opening session and Miss Heath will extend greetings. The delegates will then be divided into ten groups for the work sessions that will then follow. Nine of the ten groups will

-more-

be set up on a geographical basis to enable the participants in each group to concentrate its analysis and discussions on the housing needs and problems in their particular part of the country. As an experiment, a tenth group will be set up with delegates from New England to California, and from the Canadian to the Mexican borders, with a view to ascertaining housing needs and problems that are common to all parts of the country.

The two group discussion sessions on Monday will be devoted to interior planning. Every part of a house -- from the basement to the attic -- will come under discussion, with the discussion leader seeing to it that everyone in the group has an opportunity to express her views on how each basic component of a house can best serve the needs of the average family.

Half an hour before the closing of the Monday and Tuesday afternoon sessions the delegates will end their group discussions and meet in a general session at which time the discussion leaders will summarize the discussions of their groups.

The morning session on Tuesday will be devoted to group discussions on exterior design of a house and lot requirements. Floor to ceiling glass, picture windows, and shoulder-high windows will be among the items discussed, since many of the letters have indicated much interest in this part of a house. Lot sizes and shapes, with special attention to the question of distances between houses, will also be dealt with.

Neighborhood and community planning will be the discussion topic at the final group meetings on Tuesday afternoon. Preferred street patterns, zoning, neighborhood shopping facilities, and desirable community facilities will be among the items to be considered.

The closing session Wednesday morning will be a general session which will receive reports summarizing the discussions and suggestions reached at the group meetings.

The visit to the White House will be made after the Tuesday morning session. At the Monday luncheon the delegates will be guests of the Prefabricated Home Manufacturers Institute, with Dean Francis B. Sayre, Jr., of the Washington Cathedral, and Under Secretary of Commerce Walter Williams as speakers and Deputy HHFA Administrator Frank J. Meistrell presiding. The National Association of Real Estate Boards will be host at the Tuesday luncheon, at which Dr. Kenneth McFarland, educator and lecturer for General Motors, will speak, with Commissioner Norman P. Mason of the Federal Housing Administration presiding. The Wednesday luncheon will be sponsored by the National Retail Lumber Dealers Association, with Mrs. Jean Rindlaub, advertising executive, as the speaker and Assistant HHFA Administrator Annabelle Heath presiding. All of the luncheons will be at the Willard Hotel. The buffet reception will be given by the National Association of Home Builders at 7 p.m. Tuesday, at the National Housing Center.

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Information for the Press and Other Media
Covering the Women's Congress on Housing,
Hotel Washington, April 23, 24, 25.

The conference will open Monday, April 23, in the Hall of Nations, Washington Hotel, at 9 a.m. with a short general session addressed by HHFA Administrator Albert M. Cole and Assistant Administrator Annabelle Heath, chairman of the conference.

Ten discussion groups, arranged geographically, will go to work about 10 a.m. and continue through Monday and Tuesday, with a closing report session on Wednesday morning. Luncheons will be given by industry organizations, with prominent speakers, at the Willard Hotel at 12:30 on Monday and Wednesday and at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

Subject to the orderly conduct of conference business, all sessions will be open to press and other media coverage.

A press table and an information service desk will be provided in the meeting room. Identification badges will be furnished reporters when they register at the Information Desk.

To facilitate press coverage, the discussions will be summarized by discussion leaders at the close of each day's session--about 4 p.m. Individual delegates should be contacted at recess or adjournment periods in order not to interrupt discussion sessions while they are in progress. The press is asked to distinguish in their stories between individual views of delegates and the consensus of the conference to be reported at the closing session.

Except for general sessions, arrangements for photographs, TV films, tape recordings, or newsreel shots should be scheduled in advance through the Information Desk.

Press, magazines, and other writers who wish to have releases, reports, and other material issued during and subsequent to the conference sent to them should ask the Information Desk to include them on the mailing list for this purpose.

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April 23, 1956

GREETINGS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

I want to thank you most warmly for the constructive suggestions you have sent us and for your willingness to take part in what we all hope will be a memorable occasion.

You took the first step when you sent us your letters. Now at this Congress you will have an opportunity to consider your views in relation to those of other housewives; and you will also have the benefit of the advice of architects and other authorities in the housing field.

The recommendations that emerge from this Congress will be the result of your group discussions. In the nature of things they may not be altogether what you had envisaged in the first place; but if there is to be a genuine integration of several points of view it is most important that all should offer a contribution.

Those of us who have official responsibilities in the housing field welcome the opportunity of exploring mutual problems with you, and we hope that you personally will find the sessions rewarding.

Albert M. Cole



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APR 26 1956

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HHFA-OA-No. 1001
(EX. 3-4160, ext. 4433)

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

Over 100 housewives gathered at the Women's Congress on Housing revealed a surprising unanimity on several phases of housing design, in informal reports presented at the end of the first day's session, devoted to interior planning. The housewives, representing all sections of the nation, generally agreed on the need for better space planning, minimum number of bedrooms and baths, larger kitchens, planned traffic flow, and privacy areas.

The reports were given to the Congress by discussion leaders from the ten working tables into which the Congress is divided. Distribution is generally on a geographic basis, and an architect and secretary sit in on the discussions. The Congress, which is meeting from April 23 to 25, at the Washington Hotel, will consider exterior design and lot requirements at tomorrow's discussions.

Miss Annabelle Heath, Assistant Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, who is conducting the Congress, emphasized that the reports were completely impromptu and no more than impressions of discussions at this stage. They will be summarized and analyzed later.

The Congress opened with welcoming addresses by Albert M. Cole, Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, Frank J. Meistrell, Deputy Administrator of the HHFA, and Miss Heath.

The housewife delegates emphasized that every home should have an area where the family can get together for meals and other purposes, and also an area or areas where each member can have privacy if desired. They were also agreed that:

(a) Planned space is all-important. Many housewives said that they would sacrifice other considerations and conveniences if necessary to get extra space.

(b) Three bedrooms and one and one-half baths should be the minimum in any family home. Most of the group discussion leaders stated that the size of the bedrooms was secondary to their privacy and accommodation of storage.

(c) A back entrance, preferably one leading to a small lavatory, is necessary so that children and others can clean up before coming into cooking and living areas.

(d) Adequate storage space, well-planned and located, is a "must." Some advocated storage walls, others extended garages, still others basements and attics.

A large majority of the delegates favored a kitchen large enough to accommodate informal seating. A "family room" was also favored by a sizable majority, while all but two discussion groups were agreed that a utility room for laundry, storage, and workshop purposes was desirable.

Most of the delegates wanted separate dining and living rooms. Where this is not practicable from a financial standpoint, they suggested dining "ells" designed in such a way as to promote separateness from the living room. The living room, many stated, should be a place of decorum and quiet living, not a corridor to other rooms in the house, or a general purpose room.

Most delegates also expressed a strong preference for front entrances which do not lead directly into the living room. Rather, they said, they wanted a vestibule or entryway that would permit the shedding of outer garments, rubbers, and umbrellas in a separate area.

There were interesting divergencies of opinion on basements. For example, a majority of the delegates from the Southeast voted in favor of a basement, although this area had been expected to feel and vote otherwise. Delegates from the Southwest voted against basements, as expected.

Discussion leaders for the group sessions are: Mrs. Clara Louise Meyers, Columbia, Missouri; Mrs. Everett Sugarbaker, Jefferson City, Missouri; Mrs. Grant Hess, Boise, Idaho; Mrs. Mary Ihinger, Topeka, Kansas; Mrs. Helen Gant, Kansas City, Kansas; Miss Janet Shair, New York City; Mrs. Edmund Bacon, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Rosalie Ehart, Miami, Florida; Mrs. Stanley Anderson, Lake Forest, Illinois; Mrs. Robert C. Baldrige, Cedarhurst, L.I., N. Y.

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April 23, 1956

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HHFA-OA-No. 1002
(EX. 3-4160, ext. 4433)

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

The Women's Congress on Housing, called in Washington this week by Housing and Home Finance Administrator Albert M. Cole, today closed its three days of meetings with a pencil-sharpening report that took the things they would like to have in a modern home and cut them down to pocketbook size.

The reports were made by ten leaders of geographically related discussion groups, in which 103 American housewives for two days at the Washington Hotel had compared and discussed their desires, their preferences, and their practical judgments on the modern home for modern family living needs.

Expressing their thanks to the Government and the HHFA Administrator for the opportunity of developing their views on the home, the American homemakers from all parts of the country came up with a number of basic agreements on the home of today, along with a wide variation of preferences and tastes as to arrangement and detail, varying according to climate, background, and individual ideas.

The mass of detailed information and judgments assembled during the two days of discussion will be analyzed and correlated for a more complete report on the conference to be issued later. The main lines of the housewives' thinking, however, were given in summary reports at the final session by the leaders of the ten discussion groups.

After the earlier discussions had brought out a wide range of desires and preferences, the delegates later settled down to trim these preferences to a feasible cost figure for most middle-income families.

All the leaders asserted that the women did not want a uniform style or plan of house to serve all people but, on the contrary, wanted individuality and flexibility within the scope of essential family functions. They called for more individuality in lot placement, exterior style, and internal arrangement for modern homes.

Nearly all wanted the kitchen to the rear of the house with a window facing the backyard, although one group preferred to have the house turned around, facing to the rear, and another group was willing to have both interior kitchens and bathrooms.

Many of the groups preferred traditional windows, but wanted them removable and easy to clean, and all felt that picture windows should be used only when they had a desirable view.

They differed on placement of closets, specific arrangement of family room, kitchen, eating area, and recreation space, on location of laundry facilities, and on bedroom size, one group wanting larger bedrooms, others willing to accept small ones with built-in storage walls and furniture.

All wanted to do their own landscaping, except for sodding which they want the builder to provide, and all wanted builders to save trees wherever possible instead of clearing the lot before construction.

The father's needs got varied attention in the form of a den, or workshop, or quiet area. One leader, however, reported that her group discovered they had pushed father completely out of the house, and in order to let him back in, they agreed to let him share the utility room with his workbench, tools, and other equipment.

A round-up of the summaries as presented follows:

Discussion Table No. 1:

Mrs. Robert C. Baldrige, Cedarhurst, L.I., New York, discussion leader for Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, upper New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont, reported:

The group felt that the bathroom is at once the most important and archaic part of today's home. Her group expressed a desire for complete streamlining of bathrooms, with rounded corners for easier maintenance and cleaning, sinks at more convenient heights, a bath tub separate from the shower, and a free-standing water closet.

The New England delegates, Mrs. Baldrige reported, had devoted their time to planning a house with 1350 square feet of space. There was no unanimous agreement on the favored architectural design of the house, but the group was agreed on the need for better arrangement of living space which would provide for two distinct areas of activity -- the noisy and the quiet. They were also in agreement on their preference for a full basement; medium-pitched roof; a kitchen with eating space and with a south or southeast exposure overlooking the children's outdoor play area; three bedrooms; a utility room for laundry, sewing, and "cleanup" purposes; a separate dining area; and a separate living room for decorous living.

To get the price of the house down to a more practical middle-income level, the group decided that it could forego for the time being a garage, separate dining room, and den, although they agreed that these were desirable.

The New England housewives preferred traditional windows which would permit adequate ventilation, and picture windows only if they looked out on a view. Expressed lot requirements included a minimum of 7500 square feet, a lawn provided by the builder, curved streets but sidewalks were not felt to be essential, underground power lines because of the danger of hurricanes in their region, and walking distance from schools, shopping, and churches. Except for the lawn, the delegates preferred to do their own landscaping, their object being planning for utmost outdoor privacy.

Discussion Table No. 2:

Miss Janet Shair, New York City, discussion leader for New Jersey and lower New York State.

The leader reported that the delegates from these states were not too much concerned with the physical characteristics of a house. They did not plan an ideal house, but declared in favor of a house that would free the homemaker from drudgery and give her more freedom, leisure and greater opportunity for harmonious family living.

Her group was not against mechanical gadgets and labor-saving devices as such, but felt that these should be installed in the house when needed and when the money was available. They all agreed on the need for an abundance of storage space all over the house.

This group felt that the house should conform to existing community patterns. The landscaping should blend with the natural surroundings.

She asserted that the women of her group felt that when they returned to their communities they would continue to work in the interests of good homes that would reflect the desires of individual families, would be an expression of modern living, with close attention to family budgets for the home and the budgeting of family time to serve both the community and the home.

Discussion Table No. 3:

Mrs. Edmund Bacon, Philadelphia, Pa., discussion leader for Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, reported as follows:

Her group planned a \$10,000 house. They came up with a minimum house and saved the "ideal house" for some later time.

This house contains a Kitchen-Family room large enough to accommodate the family "in a pleasant full eating situation." The dining area would be separate from the kitchen equipment. The family area would include the TV set, cupboards for games, and family work-play equipment. The dining-room table might serve also as a ping-pong table, a sewing table, and for other uses. There would be a "pleasant entrance" to this area (not the old back door). It would be close to the utility room in which would be located laundry tubs and places to put children's coats, boots, and baseball equipment. This should be adjacent to a half bath.

The living room would be the quiet room -- a place for "gracious living." This would be the room for books, music and "special belongings." It must not be in the traffic ways of daily living and house care.

The bedrooms would be accessible to the Family Room without going through the living room.

The group emphasized it did not want a standard house; that it wanted compatibility without uniformity.

The group did not want fences around its house, saying that fences did not promote neighborly feelings and did not keep children in.

It did not want a large glass area looking out on the street. It wanted a picture window "only if there was something to look at."

The house should be at least 25 feet from the street. The group wanted as large a front footage as possible and was willing to sacrifice depth of lot for greater street frontage.

The group stressed the importance of zoning.

The group was opposed to increasing the size of the house at the expense of adequate outdoor yard space, feeling that the underlying land constitutes the basic value of the home and that the care given the exterior of the house is indicative of the interior quality and care in the neighborhood.

Discussion Table No. 4:

Mrs. William Clancy, of Jackson, Mississippi, reporting for Mrs. Clara Louise Meyers, Columbia, Missouri, discussion leader for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky:

Mrs. Clancy noted that, owing to climatic and other differences between these states, there were divergencies of opinion on home design. Nevertheless the delegates agreed on a basic house within the \$10,000-\$15,000 range. It included an L-shaped living room with a dining area separated by folding partitions, a family room, three bedrooms and one and one-half bathrooms.

A picture window was wanted only if there was a picture but the main emphasis was on as much space as possible -- space was preferred to gadgets. There was also emphasis on garden space, especially at the rear of the house. Minimum lot size was put at 75' x 140'. Sidewalks were a must.

On behalf of the delegates the spokesman called the Congress "an unforgettable experience."

Discussion Table No. 5:

Mrs. Mary Ihinger, Topeka, Kansas, discussion leader for Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, reported as follows:

"A house that is cozy but not cold," was the expressed preference of these delegates. To get their planned home within moderate income limits they had eliminated the garage, separate dining room, and utility room, although these were considered very desirable.

This group agreed on the need for planned placement of rooms so that there would be no unwanted cross-traffic, and a kitchen in the rear of the home. They felt that the design of the rooms and the house in general should be best left to the individual taste, although the general preference seemed to be for a house that would combine both contemporary and traditional features.

They also agreed on a pitched roof, a minimum lot size of 60' x 120', 20 feet between houses, a set-back of 30 feet from the front lot line, and more privacy for the individual home, perhaps through alternate placement on the block.

The delegation urged builders and architects to save existing trees on lots, but if this were not possible, they preferred to plant their own. Some favored fenced-in yards, but all agreed that utility lines should be placed underground or at the rear of the lot, sidewalks should be provided, streets should be curved, and that schools, shopping facilities, and churches should be within easy walking distance. They felt that primary schools should be no more than six blocks from any home, high schools no more than a mile away.

Discussion Table No. 6:

Mrs. Stanley Anderson, Lake Forest, Illinois, was discussion leader for the group from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia.

This group felt they were in the highest-cost areas of the country. The majority wanted a traditional house within the means of the family, but a substantial minority favored a contemporary house. The house

should be convenient to schools, shopping centers and community facilities. They favored facilities for teen-agers, but sponsored and financed by the community.

Their house would be on a lot 75' x 150', with 15 feet on either side. It would contain at least 1200 square feet, with garage or carport only if family can afford either. The house should have a basement because of the necessary depth of footings and to get more space at lower cost. Trees should be retained whenever possible. They were not too much concerned with outdoor living space, but wanted a backyard.

This house would be two stories, with three bedrooms. The master bedroom should be larger and other two of adequate size. They stressed the need for at least five feet of clothing-hanging space per person. The bathroom should contain two feet more than present minimum. Stairs should also be a little wider than current minimums.

They want conventional windows throughout the house, so that children may look out with ease.

They want extra wiring installed at time of construction to permit future installation of appliances, etc.

The group favored adequate space off the kitchen for laundry equipment, storage, etc. There should be a guest closet and one-half bathroom near the kitchen.

The kitchen should be in the rear of the house, and should be a working room only, with sufficient space for light meals. The kitchen should overlook and be separated from the L-shaped family room by a 4-foot divider. In the kitchen the group wanted rounded corners on fixtures, as well as a built-in chopping block and bread board.

The family room which would be entered from a small vestibule would include book-cases and a fireplace if budget permits.

Discussion Table No. 7:

Mrs. Everett Sugarbaker, Jefferson City, Missouri, discussion leader for Arizona, Arkansas, Southern California, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, gave a brief report, explaining that many of the points her group favored had been covered by previous discussion leaders.

She said that the women in her group felt strongly against "row on row housing" and thought builders ought to let the prospective home owners do some of their own planning in order to achieve individuality.

They also thought builders should be discouraged from taking out all trees when they clear the land for a new development.

Her group emphasized the importance of developing community life as much as possible in order to keep children off the street and interest them in the home. They would like a small community center in a new development, even in older developments if not too late to provide for them. They don't want schools "miles away" and favor the present trend of more and smaller schools -- not large secondary schools with 2500 pupils.

Her group said that sidewalks on both sides of the street were a must. They also want curved streets with cul-de-sacs.

Mrs. Sugarbaker urged the delegates to let the zoning and planning commissions know what they want by making themselves heard. She added that one of the important results from this congress will be that when the delegates return to their cities they will become a "center of activity" in disseminating information received and conclusions reached at the meeting.

Discussion Table No. 8:

Mrs. Helen Gant, of Kansas City, Kansas, discussion leader for Iowa, Kansas and Missouri, said that the group had agreed on a "modified contemporary" basic plan for a house in the \$15,000 range. It would have a low-pitched roof, plenty of storage space, three bedrooms, a family room, separate quiet living room, one and one-half bathrooms. Mrs. Gant got a loud laugh from the audience when she said that the original plans of her group had "pushed father right out of the house." They brought him back, she added, and put him in a utility room where he could putter around, but she got another laugh when she added this would also be a "mud-room" or "rough-room."

Again there was emphasis on "space rather than gadgets." The acceptable lot size was put at 150' x 70'.

Discussion Table No. 9:

Mrs. Grant Hess, Boise, Idaho, discussion leader for the western states of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, Nebraska, and the eastern part of Washington.

These delegates were agreed that (a) the emphasis in design for the modern home should be on family living and family living areas, both indoors and outdoors, and (b) both interiors and exteriors of homes should have the utmost in individuality.

Mrs. Hess said that her group felt that both homes and lots can have adequate individuality at moderate cost. They believed that curved streets, more space between houses, and varied lot sizes could help achieve the desired individuality.

This delegation was agreed that today's minimum standards for homes are too low, particularly with regard to room sizes, storage space, wiring, bathrooms, and kitchen cupboards. They felt that adequate storage could be provided at no additional cost to the homeowner if it were properly planned.

The group considered a 1200-square-foot home. These housewives didn't mind if bathrooms or kitchen had no outside exposure, provided the rooms were properly ventilated. They were unanimous in condemning curbstone sidewalks, because of the danger to children, but favored sidewalks set back from the curb.

Discussion Table No. 10:

Mrs. Rosalie Ehart, Miami, Florida, discussion leader for a special mixed geographic table, including northern California, Florida, Oregon, Texas, Missouri, Long Island (N.Y.), and western Washington.

This group favored a house flexible in cost and not of extreme design, with 65' x 100' lot size. They felt that the cost of a larger lot would reduce the amount of housing that could be built.

This house would have three bedrooms, a 10 x 14 kitchen with dining area and no laundry facilities in kitchen. These facilities would go in a combination laundry-utility room. There would be a half-bath near the kitchen. They want a side entrance to the house.

They wanted 8'-high flat ceilings, and no exposed beams to catch dust. The children's bedrooms should be for sleeping only.

If funds are limited, they preferred a tub instead of a shower stall.

They did not want an attic or basement. They favored an oversized garage with overhead storage platforms for baby carriages, bassinets, etc.

They want outside electrical outlets for Christmas tree lighting, etc.

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HHFA-OA-No. 1019
(EX. 3-4160, ext 4433)

FOR RELEASE
Wednesday P.M.
May 16, 1956

Ideas expressed and developed at the recent Women's Congress on Housing will help both Government and industry in their future housing plans and programs, Miss Annabelle Heath, Assistant Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency and Director of the Women's Congress on Housing today (Wednesday, May 16) told a luncheon meeting of the directors of the National Retail Lumber Dealers Association.

"The proposals made during the Women's Congress, which are now being analyzed preparatory to a definitive report, will be of enormous value to the Government in carrying out its important role in housing," Miss Heath said.

"The greatest impact of the ideas expressed should be on industry itself rather than on Government," she added. "The material produced by the Women's Congress will be assembled into a workable volume for the use of industry. In this way the material will be available to assist housing plans and designs as they are formulated by all elements of the housing industry.

"The ideas expressed by the women delegates to the Congress are your customers' ideas of what they want in houses. Retail lumber dealers alert to serving the needs of their customers will surely make effective use of this ready reference. In this you will have the help of the Government."

Despite the fact that the delegates were from all parts of the country, where differences in design and structure are dictated by differences in climate, they were of one mind as to the basic functions of a house and the manner in which a home best serves the life of a family, Miss Heath said.

"The women were emphatic," she said, "that the physical structure of the house should serve to draw the family together emotionally and spiritually. They felt that the layout of a house should serve both to promote joint family activity and at the same time protect the right of privacy of the individual members of the family. And they regarded privacy as a right of children as well as husbands and wives."

Miss Heath mentioned other ways in which the housewife-delegates thought a home could help children. One of those ways was to have a kitchen area large enough for both mother and children to be in it at the same time, "not only so that mother can watch the children at play, but also so that the children can watch mother at work and thereby get their first lessons in cooking and baking," she said.

"The function of a dining room as a desirable prop to train children in amenities of life was brought out in a manner I have never seen stated in manuals of design," Miss Heath added.

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Urban Renewal Administration
Federal Flood Indemnity Administration

NOTE TO EDITORS:

Enclosed are four articles based on a report issued recently by this Agency on the Women's Congress on Housing. The Congress was held last April under our auspices to find out from homemakers themselves how houses for growing families may be improved.

The four articles report preferences of the delegates as to interior arrangement and space in a house, its exterior appearance, preferences in household appliances, and desirability of a basement and attic.

Each article is independent and can be used in any sequence, or combined, or in any other way you desire.

Also enclosed is a list of the ten groups to which the delegates were assigned. You will find that the first nine groups were made up on a geographical basis while the tenth group was a composite representing all sections of the country. You may find this convenient in determining what states are referred to in the articles when reference is made to the Southeastern, Southwestern, or Rocky Mountain groups, for example.

Copies of the report, "Women's Congress on Housing," may be obtained without charge by newspapers and other publications, by writing to the Division of Information, Housing and Home Finance Agency, Washington 25, D. C.

December 26, 1956

Jack H. Bryan
Director of Information

Enclosures

HOUSING and HOME
FINANCE AGENCY



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HHFA-OA-No. 1149
(EX. 3-4160, ext. 4433)

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The long and widely held belief on the part of men that it is practically impossible to get a roomful of women to agree on anything doesn't appear to be sound when it comes to houses.

The 103 women delegates to the Women's Housing Congress held earlier this year by the Housing and Home Finance Agency reached agreements on essential, as well as desirable spaces, sizes, and arrangements of space and household appliances for houses over a range of prices for middle-income families with children.

The delegates, organized into ten groups on a geographic area basis, started with a free discussion of desirable components, sizes, arrangements and amenities in a house for a family with growing children. When this was completed and costs estimated, discussions continued on omissions and adjustments that could be made to lower costs and retain a basic livable house.

A national preference was considered to result when a majority of the ten groups were in agreement. On this basis the combination of spaces favored for economy would be as follows:

Three bedrooms, bath and a half, kitchen family room, first floor laundry room with rear entry, parlor-type living room, enclosed front entrance foyer, guest coat closet, linen closet, broom closet, two closets in parents' bedroom and one in each of the other bedrooms.

The women stressed the importance of the rear entrance. Some urged that it be attractively designed to emphasize its friendly character as the family entrance to the home. Some groups thought there should be a small separate foyer; others preferred the entrance directly into the laundry room. But all agreed that space should be arranged so that wet and soiled play and work clothes could be removed here before entering the rest of the house.

-more-

All groups agree that the half-bath should be located near the rear entry for easy access by children during and after outside games. It would also be a convenient place for Dad to remove at least the worst of the grime after doing a greasy repair job on the car or lawn mower.

All groups agree that the kitchen work area, while arranged for easy working sequence and located out of traffic patterns, should have an adjacent dining space large enough for a table and six chairs. While most delegates would prefer a separate dining room, they agree that, for economy, family and guest dining could be arranged for satisfactorily in this space adjacent to the kitchen work area. Some delegates would like the two areas separated by folding doors, sliding partition or other flexible closure. Special guest meals would be served buffet style in the living room.

The majority feel this adjacent-to-the-kitchen-dining-area should be made large enough to provide for other family activities, such as games, teen-age dancing, television, and other active recreation. Some would use this area for sleeping overnight guests.

Such arrangement would leave the living room for less active adult types of pursuits, music, reading, quiet games and entertaining company. Seven of the ten groups favored treating the living room in this fashion. The other three favored using it for more active pursuits.

While agreeing on the foregoing as basic essentials, some groups would require a basement and others a garage or carport to complete the structure.

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The one-story house was the first choice of the majority of women from all parts of the country who attended the Women's Housing Congress sponsored by the Housing and Home Finance Agency.

The Congress, held in Washington earlier in the year, was called to find out from homemakers themselves how houses for middle-income families with children may be improved. The 103 delegates were divided into ten groups representative of similar climatic and geographic areas, except that one group was made up of representatives from all areas.

On a group basis, seven out of ten groups prefer a one-story house, either with a basement or basement and attic equivalent on the first floor, if cost is not a consideration. The three exceptions among the ten groups are New England, the Rocky Mountain states, and the group consisting of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

But since costs are important, there is considerable shifting between preferences and practical choices.

Two of the groups which made the one-story house with basement their first choice would switch to a two-story house if it resulted in getting better quality and more space for the same money. They were the group from Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, and the group representing Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia.

One of the groups was about evenly split between a one-story with basement and an all-on-one-floor house. This was the group from Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri.

The remaining three groups split their choices. The New England and upper New York group and the group representing Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia split their votes among one-story, split-level, and two-story houses. The group comprising the Rocky Mountain states and the Dakotas split three ways: half favored a one-story house, and the other half divided between a split-level and a two-story house.

-more-

In the matter of a roof, the groups were unanimous in what they didn't want for their house: they didn't want a flat roof. In fact, in addition to expressing a choice for a roof with a pitch, four of the groups added that a flat roof was not desirable or acceptable.

The groups differed, however, as to the degree of the pitch of the roof. Five of the ten groups favored a medium pitch, four a low pitch, and one a high pitch. These choices are consistent with climatic conditions of the various regions of the country, and are related to choices of attics, one-and-a-half-story houses and acceptable ceiling types. The high pitch was the choice of the group from New Jersey and the New York City metropolitan area.

The Rocky Mountain group, while generally favoring a low pitch, said that various pitches and roof designs (but not flat or butterfly) should be used for individuality.

Roof overhang at eaves was popular with the Congress, all but one of the groups expressing a preference for it. The single exception was the group of delegates from Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri, which did not report on this item.

The groups favoring a roof overhang said they want it for sunlight control, comfort, and for such practical reasons as cleaner windows and preservation of painted finish.

Picture windows were favored only if they looked out on a view and if they did not interfere with privacy. None of the delegates favored glass from floor to ceiling.

Shoulder-high windows (sills 4-5 feet above the floor) did not fare well with most of the delegates. Eight of the ten groups termed them unacceptable. Of the remaining two groups, the group from the Southwest decided shoulder-high windows were acceptable in parents' bedroom where there are close neighbors, while the group from the midwestern states of Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri preferred shoulder-high windows in all bedrooms.

Most of the groups expressed a preference for double-hung or case-ment windows. The remainder preferred awning types, the sliding type, or "any type that is easy to maintain," or "windows that fit tight and are easy to clean."

All of the groups, except the one representing Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, want the builder to provide screens and screen doors. The dissenting group, concentrating on cost savings, proposed that the builder provide window screens only, the owner buying screen doors later.

All of the groups except the group just mentioned want the builder to provide storm sash and doors.

Five groups want the builder to provide exterior shutters only when they fit in with the style of the house and are made functional and not merely attached to the house as a decoration.

Most of the groups emphasize the importance of individuality in exterior appearance. However, the need for neighborhood compatibility was also pointed out.

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The much-debated question whether or not a house should have a basement received a thorough going-over by the 103 women from all parts of the country who attended the Women's Housing Congress, and the delegates came up with some interesting findings.

The Congress was held in Washington several months ago under the sponsorship of the Housing and Home Finance Agency for the purpose of finding out from the homemakers themselves how houses for middle-income families with children could be improved. The delegates were divided into ten groups; nine on a geographic basis and one group representing a cross-section of the country.

Seven of the groups favored a basement. Of the remainder, the group from the Southwest felt that a basement is desirable in the tornado belt of Texas; the group composed of delegates from Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri was about evenly divided regarding a basement, and the composite group made up of delegates from all parts of the country decided that a basement is not necessary if adequate provision is made for activities normally associated with basements.

Those who favored a basement as an essential part of a house for middle-income families, concluded that a basement provides space at the lowest dollar cost. Many of those who favored a basement explained that if the cost were the same their preference would have been for a one-story house without basement, but they said that their experience had been that promises of basement and attic equivalent on one floor seldom are fulfilled in practice. Delegates from the north pointed out that since footings have to be dug below frost level, it doesn't cost much more to excavate for a basement; and that since a basement doesn't need to be finished to the same extent as the upper areas of a house, the additional space provided by a basement is relatively inexpensive.

-more-

Diagrammatic layouts in the report indicate how the women sought to achieve lower costs by locating certain functions and activities in the basement which would be desirable on the first floor, if money was available. Family recreation activities, laundering, mud room and half-bath are relocated in the basement, in order to reduce costs.

Delegates who favored a basement said they want more consideration given to improving its livability, such as better access, more natural light, and making the walls and floor water-tight.

If there is no basement, then an attic and/or a garage or carport for one car and storage for garden tools, screens, storm sash and wheel toys is considered necessary. Half of the groups favored a carport instead of a garage. While only two of the groups included an attic in their "minimum" house, two others said an attic was necessary if a basement was not provided.

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HHFA-OA-No. 1152
(EX. 3-4160, ext. 4433)

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ANYTIME

The majority of the delegates to the Women's Congress on Housing said that, with the exception of a kitchen vent fan, they prefer to select their own household equipment rather than to have it installed by the builder as part of the basic house for a middle-income family with children.

The Congress, held in Washington earlier this year, was called by the Housing and Home Finance Agency to find out from homemakers themselves how houses for growing families may be improved. The 103 delegates were divided into ten groups representative of similar climatic and geographic areas, except that one of the ten groups was made up of representatives from all parts of the country.

Seven of the ten groups which formed the Congress voted for the kitchen vent fan to come with the house, with one group not reporting. The two exceptions were the groups from the Southeast and the Midwest. Two other appliances -- a range and a laundry tray -- tied for a poor second, with three groups voting for the builder to provide each.

The majority of the groups indicated a preference for a built-in oven and counter-burner type range. However, only two groups wanted the builder to provide the preferred type range -- the New England group and the Southwest group.

Four groups expressed a preference for a built-in refrigerator. However, this preference was qualified by three of the four groups on the basis of cost of house. A floor-type refrigerator would be acceptable in houses of lower cost.

The majority of the groups want to provide their own range and refrigerator. They want the builder to provide space, plumbing roughing-in, and electrical connections for later installation of appliances by

the owner. Primarily, space is the most important need of these growing families. The delegates emphasized that with a given amount of money to be spent for a house they want it all used first on providing the maximum amount of properly arranged space. They want homemaking appliances but they want to determine the order in which appliances shall be acquired in terms of importance to them. Also, they want to select the make, model, and size which will meet their known needs. They indicate that the importance of these considerations is too great to be left to the determination of the builder.

Some delegates objected to paying interest on the appliances during the life of the mortgage on the house. Some felt they could buy the appliances as cheaply as the builder could provide them. Some stated that they would get appliances as anniversary gifts as the specific need arose and money was available.

On an overall basis, the groups indicated the following order of importance for homemaking appliances:

Range and refrigerator
Automatic washer and laundry tray
Kitchen vent fan (attic vent fan or
air conditioning in some regions)
Dishwasher
Dryer
Garbage disposer
Deepfreezer

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THE HOUSES WOMEN WOULD LIKE— AND THE HOUSES THEY GET

Latest check on what women want in a new home shows this—

They want, and usually get: 3 bedrooms, 1½ baths, more space. Most want, but do not get: a family room, a utility room.

They do not want: viewless picture windows, look-alike houses, curveless streets, extreme appearance, gadgets in lieu of space.

Gaining in popularity: masonry walls, flush doors, aluminum windows.

It is possible now to size up, in some detail, what the American housewife wants in a new home—and what she is getting.

That there are differences between what builders offer and what women demand in a home is shown by a pair of studies conducted by Government agencies.

The Housing and Home Finance Agency has been looking into the housewife's tastes in home design. The Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics has made a survey of the kinds of houses being built around the country.

The studies disclose that, to some extent, the desires of the public are changing the patterns of home building.

American women are demanding more floor space, and the trend in new homes is toward more. They want three bedrooms, and most new homes are being built with three. They want at least one and a half baths, and most new homes have that many. But on many points the homes now being built still do not measure up to the demands of the American housewife.

A cross section of the housing preferences of American women is provided in views expressed by 100 housewives from all parts of the country at a conference called by Albert M. Cole, HHFA Administrator.

New tastes. The views of these women differ on a number of things. But they are in agreement that, even in the price range of \$10,000 to \$15,000, a new house should contain a third bedroom, an additional half bath, and a number of other features they regard as minimal.

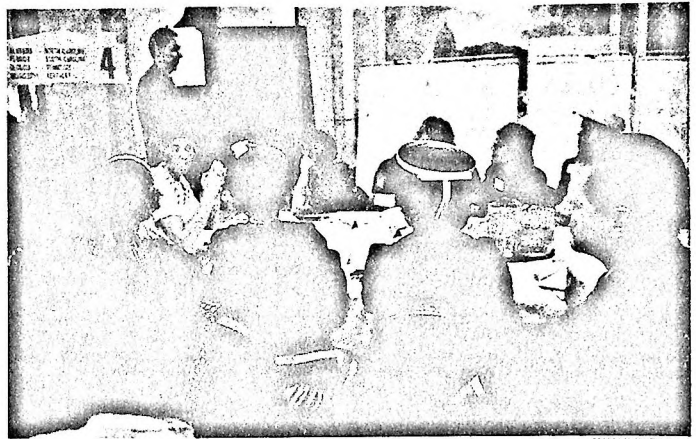
These housewives believe a new house should be designed so the living room will be a quiet area, a parlor—without television—for receiving guests, for reading, music, conversation. They also want a regular dining room or, at the least, a separate dining area where the entire family can sit down together at mealtime.

A nook in the kitchen for breakfast and snacks still is favored, but not as a substitute for the dining room. The

downstairs in the basement. They would put them in this utility room, which also would be a place to remove muddy shoes and wet raincoats.

Not wanted. There are other points on which the women say that what they want often isn't what the builder thinks they want.

They don't want picture windows unless there's really a view to look at. They don't want houses that resemble the neighbors' except for minor exterior var-



—USNAWR Photo

HOUSEWIVES SPOKE THEIR MINDS
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housewives differ on kitchen arrangements, but believe more attention should be paid to such points as the height of the sink and working counter.

Family room. Regarded as a "must" item by most of these housewives is a family room for television viewing, for games, for the children to romp in.

A virtually universal demand of American women—for more storage space—was echoed at the housing conference. The women want more storage space anywhere it can be located. If the plans include a garage, they want it built extra long, to provide storage in the rear.

Reflecting differences with present building practices is a demand for a separate utility-laundry room on the ground floor, adjacent to the kitchen. Most of the housewives say they don't want the washer and dryer either in the kitchen or

in the basement. They would rather have more space than gadgets that they could add later. They want the original trees on the lot saved, except for those removed to make room for the house. They want curved streets, not ones laid out in grid-iron patterns. They don't like extremes in exteriors.

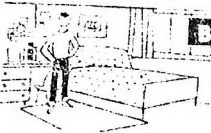
Some of the things being demanded most vigorously by women already are showing up in home-building trends.

Figures compiled by the FHA show that, of all homes in the country, less than half have three bedrooms. But, of the plans for new homes approved by FHA, 73.8 per cent call for three bedrooms.

A sampling by the National Association of Home Builders around the country shows that most builders are concen-
(Continued on page 56)

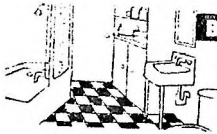


Here's the Kind of Home Housewives Are Asking For



BEDROOMS—

Three, so the children will not have to double up.



BATHS—

At least one and a half, preferably two.



LIVING ROOM—

A "quiet room," without TV, for reading, music, receiving guests.



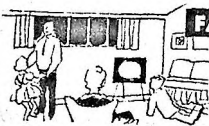
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Space for the entire family to sit down together.



KITCHEN—

Large enough to have nook for breakfast, snacks.



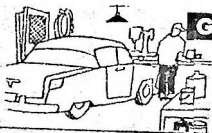
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UTILITY-LAUNDRY ROOM—

On ground floor, adjacent to kitchen.



GARAGE—

Extra length, whether one-car or two-car, to allow storage space at end.

trating on houses with three bedrooms and with one and a half baths, or more.

Size, price increasing. A survey by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics shows both floor space and prices up for new homes.

More homes are being built to sell for \$12,000 to \$20,000, and there is a sharp decline in houses priced at \$7,000 or less. There are increases in the proportion of homes having 1,000 to 1,500 square feet of floor space, decreases in those with 800 square feet or less.

The BLS survey shows some other patterns that parallel the demands being expressed by American women. There's a strong uptrend in the use of masonry to create outside walls that require little or no painting expense, although three fourths of new homes continue to be of frame construction.

Windows with aluminum frames are being used in about a fourth of all new homes, although wooden frames still are used in windows of more than half. As for type, the double-hung window is used in more than half of new houses, but horizontal slide, awning and jalousie windows are gaining in popularity. The picture window is slipping a bit.

Flush doors take over. The survey by BLS discloses that the flush door is rapidly displacing the panel door inside new homes. In new houses costing \$12,000 or more, the panel door has virtually disappeared.

Fireplaces are being included in only about one third of new homes. A fireplace seems to be a matter of cost. Very few low-priced homes have fireplaces, but the percentage goes up rapidly in higher price ranges.

As reflected in the views of the housewives at the conference, a basement in a new home is more a matter of geography and cost than of taste. More than half of new houses are being built without basements. The percentage of homes with basements runs higher in cold areas, and in more-expensive homes.

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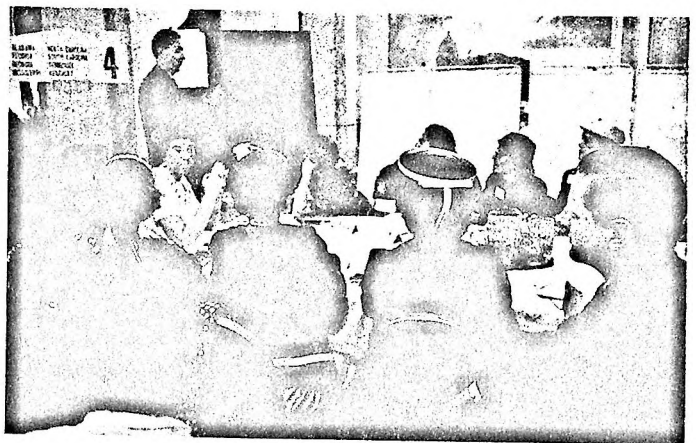
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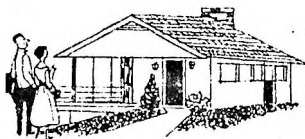
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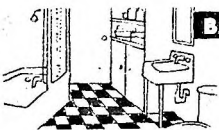


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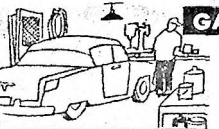
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CALLING ALL BUILDERS: WHAT WOMEN WANT IN HOUSES IS BETTER DESIGN

Women's Congress on Housing Indicates Space Planning Lags Behind Evolving Patterns of Family Living While Costly Gadgets Multiply

The ladies of the nation, or at least their 103 representatives assembled in Washington April 23-25 as the Women's Congress on Housing, have issued what appears to be a clear mandate to merchant builders to spend more money on architectural services and less on other things. They also served notice on the Congress of the United States and on interested segments of the building industry that there is a greater need for housing research than can possibly be met by the best efforts of individual manufacturers or trade associations.

Not that the ladies announced any such conclusions; but they were clearly if unconsciously implied throughout the two days of roundtable discussions of all the nine geographic groups and the one "cross-section" group into which the Congress was organized for working sessions. Whether the builders — or, indeed, the architects, will make the obvious inferences is, of course, another question.

The Women's Congress on Housing was called by Administrator Albert M. Cole of the Housing and Home Finance Agency "to obtain the views of representative American housewives on the design of the modern house." The idea was, as President Eisenhower expressed it in a message read at the opening session of the Congress, that "ultimately it is the housewife, the homemaker, who is most concerned with developments affecting the home. New methods of building, new materials, new inventions of all kinds, tend to induce a change in living patterns of which she is the center. But the opposite is also the case. When living patterns change within the home, these in turn give an impetus to new technological advances." And the IHHFA, Administrator Cole explained, felt the views of housewives ought to be taken into account in considering such matters as the Minimum Property Requirements of the Federal Housing Administration, lest ignorance of developing new patterns of living make new houses obsolete far too early. Mr. Cole hoped industry as well as government would benefit by the information made available; he even expressed the hope that the Congress might eventually in-

spire "a full-scale market analysis."

Delegates were chosen largely from among the writers of the nearly 4000 letters which arrived after Mr. Cole publicly invited housewives across the country to write him their views on how the modern house could be improved; a few were nominated, at IHHFA's invitation, by such organizations as the American Institute of Architects, the National Association of Real Estate Boards and the National Association of Retail Lumber Dealers. The National Association of Home Builders did not accept its invitation to nominate. Under Miss Annabelle Heath, IHHFA assistant administrator, as conference chairman, a technical group headed by Joseph Orendorff, former head of the now defunct IHHFA Division of Housing Research, carefully screened the letters for major areas of concern, and the results shaped the agenda for discussion at the Congress.

A very wide range of opinions and preferences, a very strong demand for "individuality" (the word was used again and again) in appearance, plan and lot arrangement, and a unanimous concentration on the needs and desires of the family occupants themselves — as against concern with the reactions of the neighbors or of visitors — were striking features of all the discussions. Also striking was the highly articulate response of the women to their opportunity to express themselves; there was no doubt of their enthusiasm and no doubt, either, of their conviction that builders could learn a good deal from them about what makes a house tick. Fortunately or unfortunately, the builders were assumed to be responsible for every fault or virtue of a house; as far as these women were concerned, the architect apparently didn't exist.

Some basic areas of agreement on requirements of the modern house were reflected in the reports given by discussion leaders at the final session of the Congress. As summarized in the IHHFA's preliminary report on the Congress, the main points were:

— Three bedrooms, one and a half baths, ample storage and closet space, and a family room closely related to the

kitchen are minimum requirements for modern family living.

— Outdoor play and living space in the back yard, which was given greater emphasis in the South and less in the North.

— Back door entrances with "mud-room" and half baths for the children and family to use.

— Curvilinear streets and sidewalks with a planted space between the walk and the curb.

— They wanted only essential appliances included with the house, and preferred to get their own as they were able, preserving "more space in the home and fewer gadgets."

— All agreed strongly on the need for more storage space in the modern home, and called generally for at least five ft. of hanging closet space per person. The groups presented various proposals for increasing storage space on a planned basis.

— All wanted the home plan basically divided into a family or noisy area and a living room that furnished a quiet and adult area, and all wanted to eliminate cross traffic between different areas of the house.

— While most would like a separate dining room, they were willing, for economy purposes, to accept a dining space provided it was in the "L" of an L-shaped living room, and all wanted at least a small space for eating in the kitchen or family area.

— Nearly all wanted the kitchen to the rear of the house, with a window facing the back yard, although one group preferred to have the house turned around, facing to the rear, and another group was willing to have both interior kitchens and bathrooms.

— Many of the groups preferred traditional windows, but wanted them removable and easy to clean, and all felt that picture windows should be used only when they had a desirable view.

Although there may be some question about how well these ideas face up to the economic realities of the \$10,000-\$15,000 house to which they were in theory addressed, they constitute a new checklist of market demand, and as such, seem bound to get attention.

(More news on page 36)

What Does She Want in Home?

(SPECIAL TO THE DETROIT NEWS)

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 6.

—Some 200 letters from American housewives are arriving here daily in response to Housing and Home Finance Administrator Albert M. Cole's invitation that they write him their views on what the modern home should be like.

"The housewives are most enthusiastic in their response," Cole said. "All of them say they are grateful for an opportunity to express their views on a subject that is very close to their hearts."

Cole has announced that the Woman's Congress on Housing at which the suggestions made in the letters will be discussed by about 100 women from all parts of the country, will be held on April 23, 24, and 25, at the Washington Hotel here.

FAMILIES CLOSER

Miss Annabelle Heath, HHFA assistant administrator, who is directing plans for the meeting, said that her review of the letters thus far shows a strong demand for fuller family life.

"The letters indicate that the American family is growing closer together rather than farther apart."

HOUSEWIVES URGE RETURN OF PARLOR

An Island of Quiet in Modern Home Leads Suggestions at Capital Conference

'MUD ROOM' ALSO ASKED

Advocated as Clean-Up Spot —Panel Wants No Attics, Dens or Basements

letters but the suggestions as to where the TV set should be located differ.

DINING DIFFERENCES

"Some think it should be in the kitchen so that the housewife can watch it during the day while preparing meals and where the family can gather around it in the evening after dinner, thus leaving the living room or some other part of the house quiet for those who might want to read to study or listen to music. Others suggest putting the TV in the basement or lumphus room."

"Some of the letters make out a case for a separate dining room necessary for

Housewives Meet to Discuss Future Home Building

WHAT THE HOUSEWIFE WANTS IN A NEW HOME

- ADEQUATE EATING SPACE
- FAMILY ROOM
- 3 BEDROOMS — 1½ BATHS
- OUTDOOR LIVING
- REAR KITCHEN
- ABUNDANT STORAGE
- GOOD TRAFFIC CIRCULATION
- BUILT-IN UNITS
- INDIVIDUALITY OF EXTERIOR DESIGN
- SEPARATE DINING ROOM OR DINING "L"
- HOBBY AREA FOR FATHER
- PROVISIONS FOR "QUIET AREA" AND "NOISY AREA"
- PICTURE WINDOWS WHEN WARRANTED BY VIEWS
- FIRST FLOOR LAUNDRY AREA

the invitation of Albert M. Cole, administrator, more today to participate in the Housewives' Congress at the Hall of Nations at

INVESTMENT

The 10 million houses built since World War II represent investment in excess of \$100 billion.

In the decade ahead, the American people will invest at another \$100 billion in homes. The government does not propose to be a part of a \$100 billion mistake. That's why the women have come to Washington. They are there with suggestions for a new section of the house. Emphasis will be on the kitchen and the plea for large family room will be strong.

The delegates represent a cross section of the United States and they will be separated into geographical groups. Each group will make its own suggestions and discuss its needs and problems in relation to its own similar climate.

FAMILIES CLOSER

The discussion of geographical differences here is an indication that the American family is growing closer together and that some one has again become a center of attraction. The family room is coming and the plea for large

Women Tell U.S. Agency How to Build New Homes

By EDITH B. CRUMB

Home Section Writer, The Detroit News

2 • HOME PLANNERS, WASHINGTON, APRIL 23

—More than 100 housewives including several from Michi-

gan invited to the conference it seemed that the need for more space predominated.

INC. DISCUSSION TABLES

There are 10 tables which separate the delegates into geographical groups (Michigan

basement because she is a hoarder and would be tempted to tuck away things that she can get along without.

LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT

One of the most lively discussions was the placing of the

room went several rounds. For the average family, one delegate thinks seating space for at least five adults should be included in planning.

KITCHENS

Some favor the U-shape

THE WOMEN'S CONGRESS ON HOUSING

In April, 103 housewives from all over the United States met in Washington to express their ideas on home living requirements. This group was invited to Washington by the government to advise the Housing and Home Finance Agency. The women were well qualified to voice their many and varied views. They were all homemakers ranging in ages from 20 to the early 50's. They all had at least one child, and many had four.

Various opinions were aired in discussion groups. Each of ten tables was assigned specific topics for discussion. Although an architect was present at each table, the groups elected one of its members to act as discussion leader. At the conclusion of the three day conference each table presented summaries of their discussions.

Because of the different geographical locations represented, the desires expressed at times, ran counter to each other. For instance, the groups representing the North favored a home with a basement; those from the South expressed their desire for a non-basement home. The Southern group was more conscious of the need for outdoor living facilities than the Northern group. The traditional styles of architecture found favor with those from New England; contemporary and one-story homes were preferred by the delegates from the Midwest and Southwest.

In spite of such regional differences there was unanimity in basic floor plan requirements if the activities of the modern family are to be adequately provided for. Three bedrooms, one and one-half baths, ample closet and storage space and a family room functioning with the kitchen were regarded as the minimum requirements. Many housewives felt they would much rather sacrifice such items as garages, separate dining rooms, dens, utility rooms and various embellishments, in order to cut costs. Wanting only the essential appliances included with the house, they preferred "more space in the home and fewer gadgets."

Various groups expressed preferences such as these: Back door entrances with "Mudroom" and half-baths for children and family use; Kitchen facing rear with a window facing the yard; No fences around the houses since they did not promote neighborly feelings and did not keep children in; No large glass areas looking out on the street; Picture windows "only if there was something to look at"; The family area would include the TV set, cupboards for games and family work-play equipment; Extra wiring installed at time

of construction to permit future installation of appliances; Kitchen to have dining area but no laundry facilities; Laundry equipment to be combined with utility room; Garage storage for baby carriages, bassinets, etc.

Prior to the Congress the nation's housewives were invited to write to the Housing and Home Finance Agency expressing their views on housing. The following excerpts show that the housewives have some constructive criticism that is well founded.

"A big need in present homes is for a family room," writes a Wisconsin housewife. "The current trend of small living rooms is not enough to serve the larger families. A family room located off the kitchen would be ideal."

A Minnesota lady declares: "I have come to one conclusion, that the houses of today are much too small. Even the poorest of the people in our parents' day had larger homes that many quite well fixed people cannot afford today. We would gladly sacrifice some of the conveniences for a little luxurious space."

A Louisiana mother claims: "Parents are valuable, important people. Fewer of them would go to our mental wards and divorce courts if they had one room, even a small one, strictly private, with an outside entrance where the parents could be undisturbed to discuss their problems, budgets, offspring, their hopes and plans, in peace and quiet without the television and radio."

The three day conference, to some critics a waste of taxpayers' money, may not have any resounding effect upon the building industry. Nevertheless, the wisdom of such a conference is undeniable. It would be difficult to find a more discriminating segment of the population than that represented by the American Housewife. Who is better qualified to express views on the livability of today's homes than the housewife who is dedicated to her job of operating a smooth running home? It is to the housewife that this book is dedicated.

The four designs on the following three pages have been chosen because they best exemplify the many features the housewives found most desirable in a new home. Three basic exterior designs are pictured —The Cape Cod, Traditional, and Modern Ranch. The two one story ranch homes have been designed to fit a restricted building budget, as well as that of a family of more moderate means.

As you review the various designs in this book, analyze the floor plans in relation to your own family's interpretation of livability. Detailed blueprints are available for every design in this book. These blueprints are a valuable aid for more careful study, and indispensable for obtaining bids and engaging a builder.

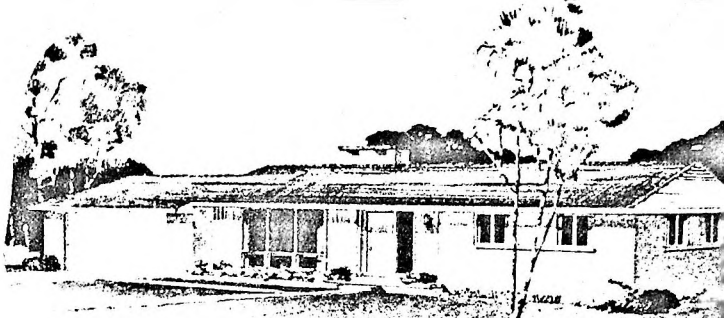
THE MODERN RANCH HOME can be made as deluxe as the budget will permit. The two designs on this page have the same basic floor plan. Both are designed to provide maximum livability, but for varying building budgets.

Design V 810, the larger of the two designs, has a two car garage, a fireplace, a barbecue, and built-in cooking units. The absence of these features in the smaller design (V 813) does not greatly restrict its livability. The housewives declared that they would willingly sacrifice such features in order to gain more living space. If a fireplace is desired in the smaller design, a prefab fireplace may be installed. This would represent a savings over the cost of a conventional fireplace. At a later date, as the budget permits, a one or two car garage may be built.

Another point in favor of the economy design V 813, concerns its requiring a smaller piece of property for a building site. In many cases, the savings effected here might be considerable.

The rear kitchen provides the housewife with a full view of the back yard. The washroom located just inside the service entrance, eliminates excessive traffic to the bath of the sleeping area. This area, where the laundry equipment and basement stairs also are located, functions ideally as a "mud" room. Observe how the living room has no cross room traffic at all. Don't miss the wall of storage units in the master bedroom.

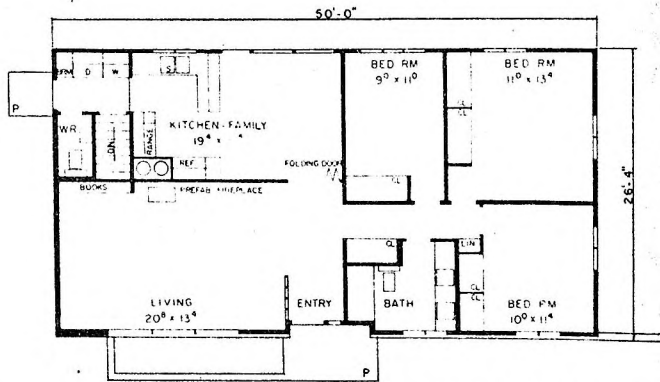
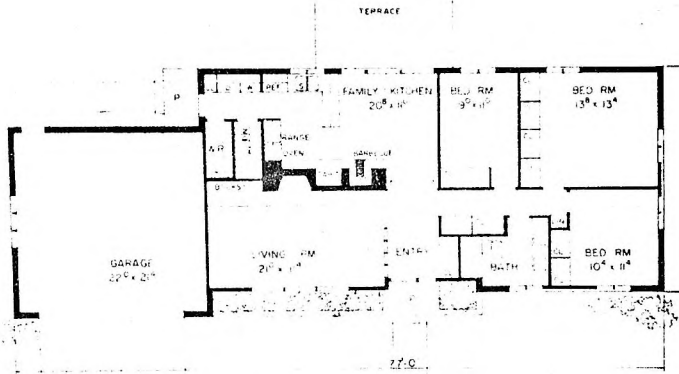
Blueprints are available for both of these designs. The front exterior for Design V 813 is the same as that of V 810 except for the elimination of the garage.



Convenient Living

DESIGN V 810

1,437 Sq. Ft.
27,311 Cu. Ft.



Convenient Living

DESIGN V 813

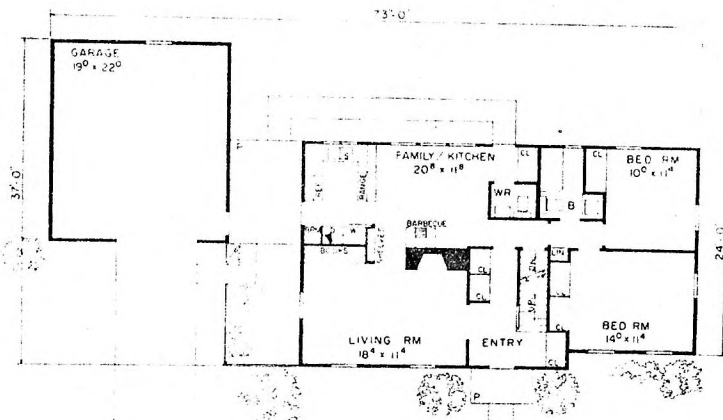
1,304 Sq. Ft.
23,996 Cu. Ft.



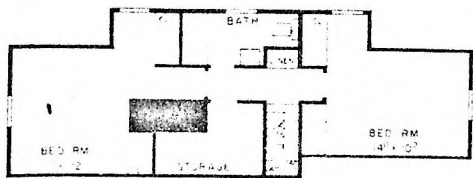
Convenient Living

DESIGN V 811

25,533 Cu. Ft.

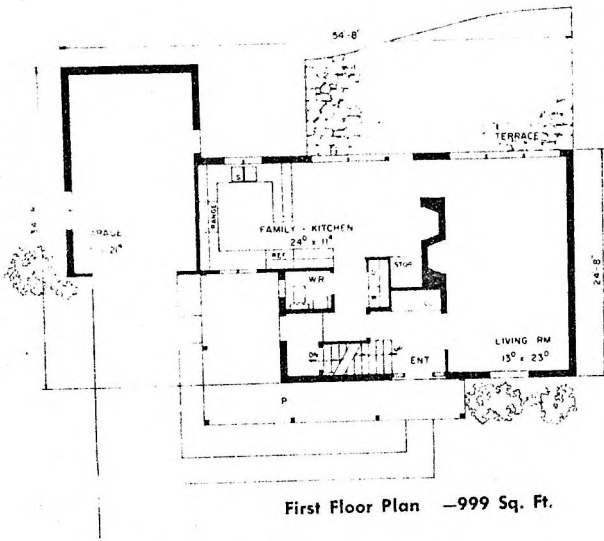
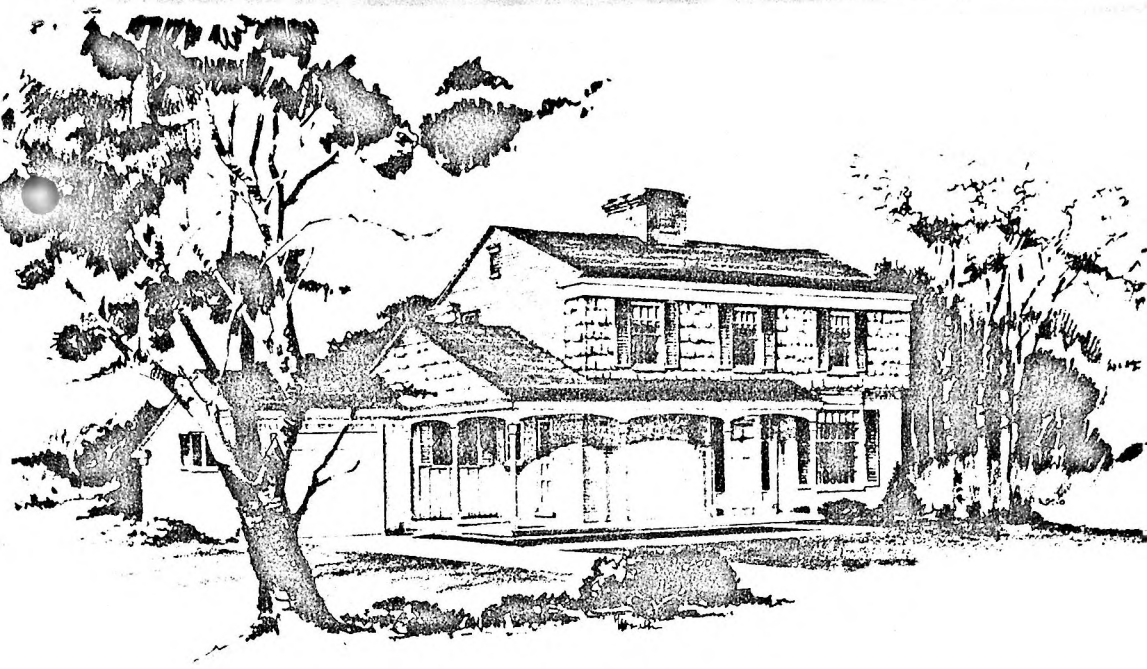


First Floor Plan — 1,141 Sq. Ft.



Second Floor Plan— 630 Sq. Ft.

CAPE COD styling with a floor plan designed for today's living requirements. The large family will experience many years of gracious living. The storage facilities are exceptional, as are the sleeping and bath facilities. The work area is compact and efficient. Study this design carefully.



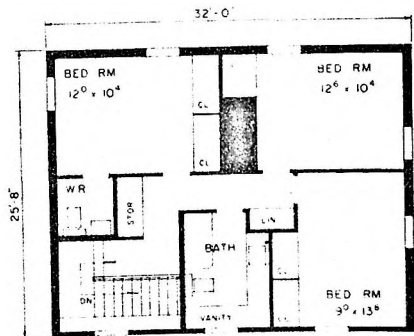
First Floor Plan — 999 Sq. Ft.

THE TWO STORY HOME offers the most privacy and the best return on the construction dollar. The first floor offers plenty of spaciousness for both formal and informal entertaining. The front-to-rear living room lends itself to ideal furniture arrangements and overlooks the rear terrace. The second floor contains three sizeable bedrooms with 1½ baths and plenty of closet space.

Convenient Living

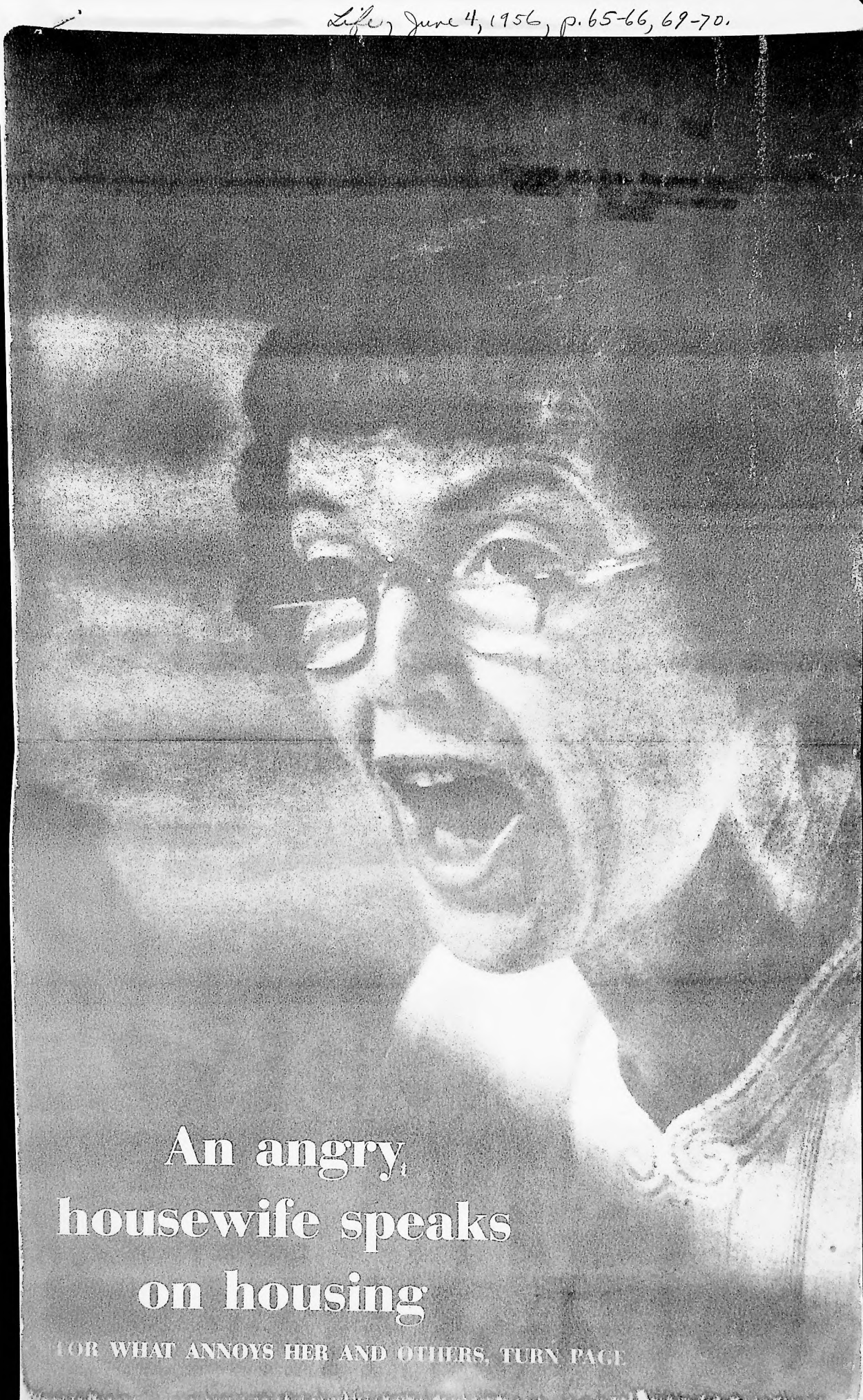
DESIGN V 812

23,964 Cu. Ft.



Second Floor Plan—821 Sq. Ft.

Life, June 4, 1956, p. 65-66, 69-70.



**An angry,
housewife speaks
on housing**

FOR WHAT ANNOYS HER AND OTHERS, TURN PAGE



PLEA FOR PLANNING by Mrs. Everett Sugarbaker of Jefferson City, Mo. asks provision for parks, churches.

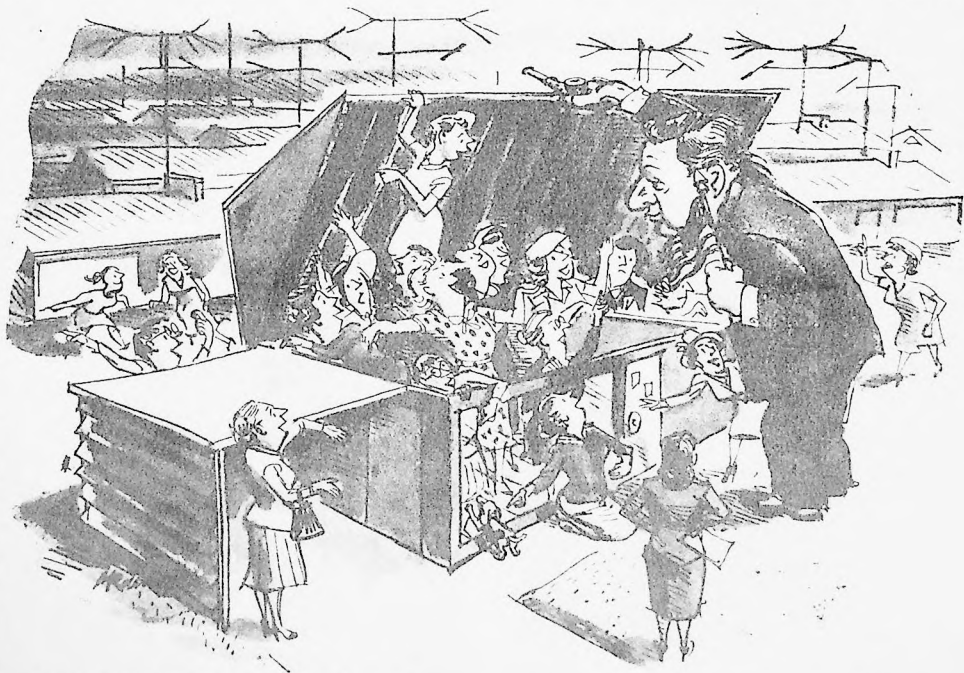


DEMAND FOR SAFER SIDEWALKS, set back from curb, comes from Mrs. William Clancy Jr., Jackson, Miss.

'UGLY OUTSIDE AND INEFFICIENT' INSIDE'

From around the U.S., Greenback, Tenn. to Eureka, Calif., 103 aroused housewives descended on Washington ready and able, like Mrs. Stanley Anderson of Lake Forest, Ill. shown on the preceding page, to speak out on a subject dear to their hearts—houses. They had been invited to do just that by U.S. Housing Administrator Albert M. Cole. The government, through its mortgage-guarantee programs, will have a big stake in the \$100 billion Americans will spend for homes in the next decade. From the ladies, Cole hoped to learn what kind of houses will be good loan risks, *i.e.* what kind of houses they want and will keep on wanting until the mortgage is paid off.

What the housewives wanted were houses with better planned work areas, better defined zones of quiet and noise. They were willing to give up gadgets for space. They admitted many builders were turning out good products but the ladies had come to let their hair down. And they did. Many mass-produced houses, said Mrs. Anderson, are "a disgrace to the American standard of living: ugly outside and inefficient inside." There were bitter complaints about stupid landscaping and about picture windows that have no view. The conference findings will soon be published. Meanwhile LIFE illustrates below and on following pages some of the major pleas and peevces.



RAISING THE ROOF of the American home, Housing Chief Albert Cole is assailed by a tornado of talk from

housewives. House shows some of their complaints: it is too small, lacks individuality, has useless picture window.

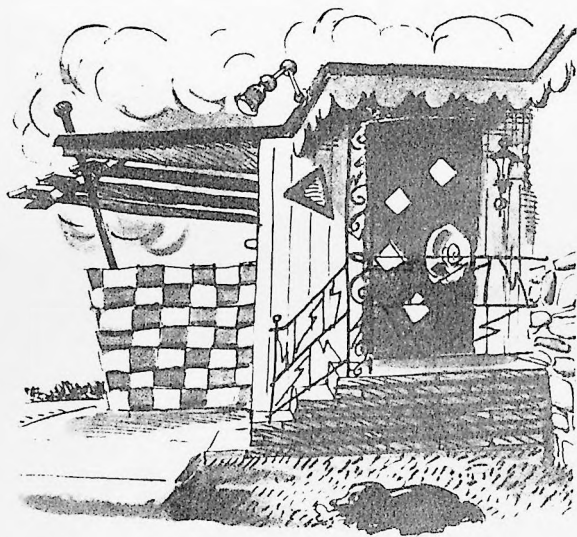
• DECONTAMINATION ROOM was a frequent request.

- \ Others want area where youngsters can peel off muddy clothes before invading rest of house.

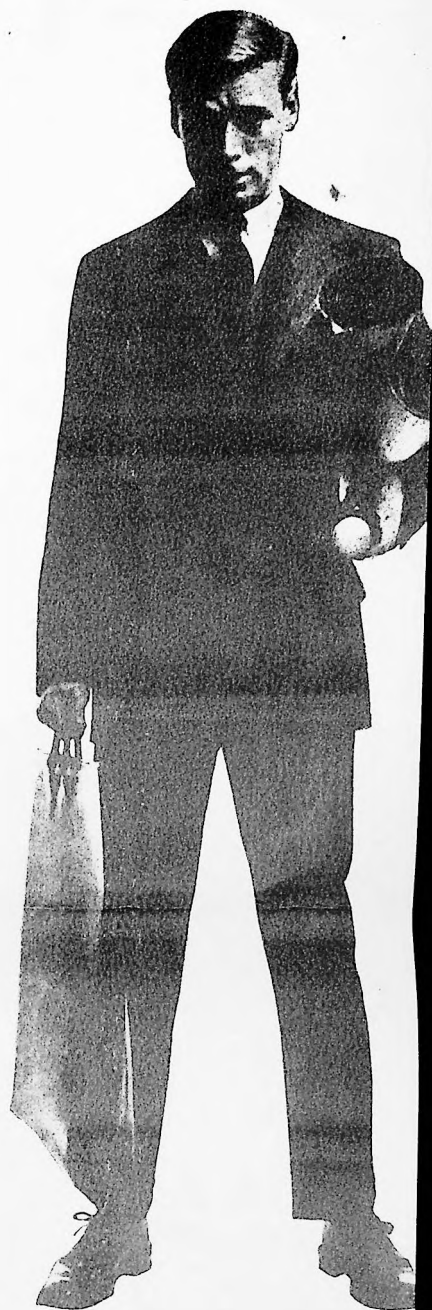
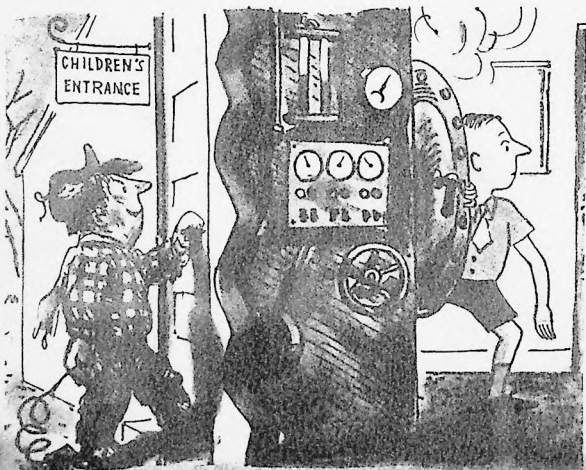
HOUSEWIVES ON HOUSING CONTINUED



DENuded DEVELOPMENTS were a prime complaint from housewives, who said that builders needlessly destroy trees, erect homes like peas in a pod.



ECZEMATIC EXTERIORS, breaking out in mishmash of shingles, cedar siding, stone and wrought iron, infuriate housewives who want simple design.



This year, I'll introduce Dad to the

Watch your Dad when he puts on Esquire Socks' all nylon Governor stretch sock. In just seconds, he'll know this is the sock for him. A new weight. A perfect fit. And rich, tasteful looks that speak your Father's Day thoughts so well. When you think of gifts, think of the new ribbed Governor®—in the gold and black "Golden Treasure" box, \$1 a pair.

ESQUIRE SOCKS®

How will
you preserve
her
first step?



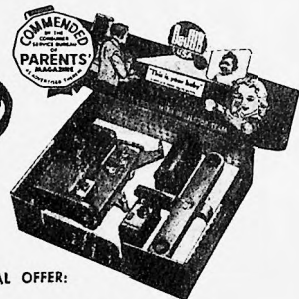
with bronzed
baby shoes?
or

living
DeJUR
home
movies

This is a moment to hold on to. It's a cinch with easy-to-use DeJUR movie equipment:

ELDORADO 8mm ROLL-FILM CAMERA:
Just follow your baby through the big window viewfinder and press the button. With the f/1.9 universal focus coated lens and built-in exposure guide, the ELDORADO makes perfect movies in color or black and white. Only \$59.95.

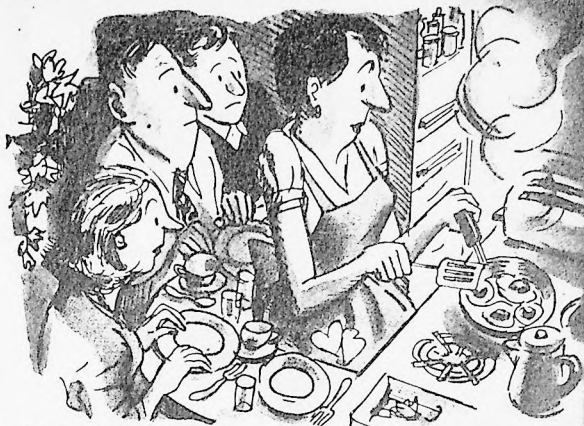
"500" 8mm MOVIE PROJECTOR:
Light, powerful, cool, practical... this is America's finest low-cost projector. 500 watt beam and 1 inch projection lens assure brilliant theater quality image. 300 foot film capacity. The projector switch turns out your room light automatically when you start to show your movies. Only \$69.95.



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Everything you need to make perfect movies of your young ones. ELDORADO Camera and genuine leather case, "500" Projector, 12" x 18" Beaded Screen, plus 2-flood Bar Light for perfect indoor movies in color or black and white. A \$148.60 value, complete for only \$139.50. See your DeJUR dealer today.



NO ROOM FOR EATING jams families at kitchen counters in many new houses. Wives demand space for table and chairs, would like dining room to



NO ROOM FOR FUN cramps activities as members of family get in each other's way. Wives want bigger activity zones, even if other rooms are smaller



NO ROOM FOR PRIVACY sends housewives in desperation to bathroom. "I need hardly point out that this leads to complications," observed one wife.

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