

\$700,000 More Allotted Columbia for Housing

5/27/38

Makes Total For This City \$2,262,000

Spartanburg Gets Its First Allowance With \$800,000 Set Aside

The Columbia Housing authority yesterday learned of the earmarking of \$700,000 more for low cost housing in Columbia, bringing the total to \$1,500,000 for new projects. This sum, with the \$762,000 already spent for the building of University Terrace, makes Columbia's total under the housing program reach the figure of \$2,260,000.

At the same time it was announced that Spartanburg had been given its initial earmarking of \$800,000. Before that only Charleston and Columbia had participated in the housing program.

In a telegram to the Columbia Housing authority, of which W. S. Hendley is chairman, and E. C. Coker, Geddings H. Crawford, L. Cooper Smith and S. L. Latimer, Jr., are the members, and D. W. Robinson, attorney, and John A. Chase, secretary, Nathan Straus, administrator of the United States housing authority, said:

"Pursuant to your request I am pleased to inform you that the earmarking for Columbia has been increased to \$1,500,000. This additional earmarking does not imply approval of any specific project. Letter will follow explaining in detail conditions of entire earmarking. Allow me again to express my appreciation for your co-operation."

At the April meeting of the housing authority a motion was passed that Mr. Straus be requested to increase the allocation for new housing in Columbia from \$800,000 to \$1,500,000. The United States authority immediately began a study and within about a month granted the request. Last fall Dr. L. B. Owens and the authority had asked for \$1,500,000, which \$800,000 was earmarked.

The fund really means more than \$1,500,000 will be expended since there will be an additional 10 per cent. to be provided by the Columbia Housing authority, so that between \$1,600,000 and \$1,700,000 will be available for new work when it starts.

While considerable preliminary work has been done in regard to additional housing in Columbia because of the \$800,000 previously earmarked and the hopes of more funds, the matter of further building is held up because of an appeal to the su-

preme court from Judge Bellinger's recent decision in the McNulty case. In this Mr. McNulty questioned legality of low cost housing. Judge Bellinger dismissed the plea.

Washington, May 26—(AP)—The public works administration said today the cost of its recent slum clearance and low-rent housing program compared favorably with private building costs of the country.

It based its claim on findings by the bureau of labor statistics showing the average cost per family unit under the PWA program, recently transferred to the United States housing authority, was \$4,126.

The administration said it released the statistics in an effort to refute "exaggerated reports" of the cost of its venture into the housing field.

The bureau did not include the cost of land or street improvements in its estimates.

The report listed the following projects with average cost per family unit, based on the cost of dwelling facilities only:

Atlanta, Ga., Techwood, \$2,688, and university homes, \$2,487; Birmingham, Ala., Smithfield Courts, \$2,913; Charleston, S. C., Meeting Street Manor, \$4,922; Columbia, S. C., University Terrace, \$4,031; Jacksonville, Fla., Durkeeville, \$3,000; Memphis, Tenn., Dixie Homes, \$3,734, and Lauderdale Courts, \$4,847; Miami, Fla., Liberty Square, \$2,977; Montgomery, Ala., Riverside Heights, \$2,934, and Patterson Courts, \$2,245; Nashville, Tenn., Cheatham Place, \$4,354.

The reservation of funds increased the amount earmarked by the authority to \$357,778,000.

Of the \$23,230,000 reserved today, \$21,230,000 was set aside for local housing authorities which previously had not participated. These included:

Anniston, Ala., \$540,000; Columbus, Ga., \$850,000; Rome, Ga., \$540,000; Spartanburg, S. C., \$800,000.

Of the remaining \$2,000,000, Columbia, S. C., received an additional \$700,000 to increase its total earmarking to \$1,500,000.

Court Will Hear Housing Project

6/5/38

Supreme Body to Get Arguments on Appeal by McNulty From Lower Cou

Whether the Columbia Housing authority can contract with the federal government to execute a low cost housing and slum clearance project is a question to be submitted to the state supreme court next Saturday.

W. E. McNulty, Capital City realtor, brought the test suit for himself and "all other taxpayers" against city and housing authority officials.

The authority proposes a second project here.

McNulty alleges and the defendants deny that the proposal is not for a public purpose, that it cannot be exempted from taxes and assessments and that contributions by the Federal Housing authority are illegal. Other grounds are also given.

The defendants, however, contend