

\$560,000 Unit For Housing Is Proposed

Judge, Hearing Test Case, Told of Plans to Erect New Building Here

Plans for the construction of a \$560,000 low-cost housing project in the city of Columbia, for which a tentative contract has been made with the United States Housing authority, were disclosed yesterday afternoon at a hearing on the legality of the erection of such projects before Judge G. Duncan Bellinger.

Upon the completion of testimony and arguments in the test case, Judge Bellinger announced that he would reserve his decision until a later date.

It is expected that as soon as the judge's decision is given, should it be favorable to the construction of the projects here, that the contract with the government would be completed by the Columbia Housing authority.

Under the plan of the authority, the new white units would rent for \$5 per room per month and the negro units would rent for \$2 per room per month. Rent per room per month at University Terrace, the city's \$750,000 low-cost project, is: whites \$7 and negroes \$4.50.

Location of the project has not been revealed, neither has the num-

ber of units to be in the proposed structure.

The United States Housing authority earmarked \$800,000 to Columbia for low-cost housing projects.

The test case was brought by E. McNulty as a Columbia taxpayer in behalf of other taxpayers in the city. He was represented by John A. Manning. D. W. Robinson represented the housing authority and Paul A. Cooper represented the city of Columbia. The plaintiff sent no witnesses to the stand.

Geddings H. Crawford, member of the local housing authority, testified that 90 per cent of the bonds would be bought by the government and the city of Columbia would be required to furnish 10 per cent of the total cost. He said rents from tenants would be used by the authority to retire the bonds.

W. S. Hendley, chairman of the Columbia Housing authority, said that a survey of the city made in 1934 showed that there were approximately 12,000 dwelling units in the city and of this number, 5,000 were without bath tubs or showers.

S. L. Latimer, Jr., and E. C. Coker, members of the authority, testified as to the slum conditions in Columbia, and social conditions were explained by Miss Leila Johnson and Miss Mary Wheeler of the school of social work at the University of South Carolina.

B. F. Pruitt, president of the University Terrace Tenants' association, and William R. Geddings, manager of University Terrace, testified as to the conditions at the present low-cost housing project.