

# Housing Meeting Cancelled; Protestors Shield Spokesmen

A scheduled meeting between a public housing tenants group and the Columbia Housing Authority ended without being convened Friday when the group would not identify its representatives.

A spokesman for the Greater Columbia Tenants Organization said her group had requested the meeting to protest what it called "the high cost of rent . . . which is forcing many tenants back to the slums," alleged "mismanagement" of the city's seven public housing projects and other grievances.

The group of about 40 left the meeting at the Gonzales Gardens Pre-School Playroom rather than give their names to the housing officials.

Mrs. Nadine Williams, chairman of the tenants group, said the requirement that the tenants appearing before the authority give their names "should have been attached to our lease."

Housing Authority Administrator Dr. John A. Chase said exclusion of non-tenants from meetings like Friday's "is a long-time custom of the Columbia Housing Authority. Those attending refused to give us their identification so the meeting was not convened."

Chase said the authority had agreed to meet with Mrs. Williams and about 15 members of the group. About 40 were present Friday, he said.

"The size of the group had nothing to do with our request for identification," Chase said. "It's something we always do to make sure that all present are actually tenants.

"We weren't adamant about how many people showed up," he said. "But we were adamant about their unwillingness to identify themselves."

Friday's meeting was closed to the press, Chase said, "because in all management-resident relationships it is imperative that the dignity and privacy of the residents be respected and protected. Regrettably, therefore, the Housing Authority cannot permit the news media or any other non-resident individuals or groups to attend conferences which concern the private affairs of the residents.

"The Housing Authority has, is now and will continue to

have an open door policy to residents, be they individuals or groups, to receive complaints, grievances and for the discussion of matters of mutual interest and concern," Chase said.

## California To Give Aid To Epileptic

LOS ANGELES (AP) — State officials stepped in Friday to give a man totally disabled with incurable epilepsy the almost constant bedside attention his doctor says he needs to survive, but ran out of money to pay for.

Attorneys for John Herbert Roberts, 42, have been fighting a dragging court battle for extra Medi-Cal state-provided medical services to pay for a personal attendant 15 hours a day.

His private funds for the 15-hour care ran out Friday. His doctor said if unattended Roberts could choke to death from not being able to clear his throat.

## Over 100? You May Be State's Oldest

Who is the oldest living South Carolinian now residing in the state?

The South Carolina Interagency Council on Aging, a state government agency, would like

## Furnishings Are Taken