

SPEEDUP SEEN  
IN HOMES HERE

State FHA Chief Pledges to Cut 'Red Tape.'

(Another Home Building Story, Page 11)

By ART WRIGHT

Some contract builders today saw possibilities of a speed-up in homes construction here after R. Earl Peters, state director of the federal housing administration, promised curtailment of government "red tape."

Others, however, looked to the future with "tongue in cheek" despite the FHA director's note of optimism in an address last night before the Marion County Residential Builders at a banquet in the Athenaeum.

Voicing the opinion of the less optimistic, the builders group issued this statement:

"Controls as promulgated by the OPA in the fixing of prices on building materials and supplies as well as rent regulations are a deterrent in the solution of the housing problem in this locality."

Pledges Less Controls

Whether or not he knew of the builders' earlier statement, Mr. Peters promised less controls on the industry so far as the FHA is concerned.

"And Washington," he said, "will pretty much accept our recommendations" as regards price restrictions under the revised housing regulations designed to channel 60 per cent of the critical materials to houses built for war veterans.

Mr. Peters is convinced the builders can solve the housing shortage without government controls, he told them.

"If the government will find a way to make the materials available to the builders, they can do the job," he said.

Favor Applicant

Bidding for wholesale co-operation in the newest attempt to provide much-needed homes, Mr. Peters promised: "We are going to be optimistic in favor of the applicant for priorities on these critical materials."

Describing the "new" FHA as being "streamlined," he declared: "This time we mean business!"

Mr. Peters described the critical housing shortage as "the most acute problem regarding shelter in the nation's history."

Co-operation of the builders group in the federal plan to train veterans in the building industry was pledged to C. O. Fields, of the veterans administration here. He outlined the veterans aid procedure last night.

The new housing regulations with priorities for veterans, which went into effect yesterday, allow construction of a home up to \$10,000 sale price. The figure includes land and improvements. The maximum rental figure is \$80. If the home is not purchased by a veteran within 30 days after construction it may be sold to a non-veteran at a price no higher than that asked of a veteran. Priorities obtained from FHA for critical materials will be obtained by the owner instead of the contractor, Mr. Peters said.

More Regulations

Other regulations as set up by the civilian production administration, of which FHA is the agent, are:

1. Applicants must furnish description of the structures they plan to build and the price or rental at which they will make it available to veterans. FHA field officers must be satisfied that the proposed sale or rent is reasonably related to the proposed accommodation.

2. Applicants must show they will be ready to start construction within 90 days and demonstrate that they have effective control of the land, that financing is assured, and that arrangements have been made for local building permits, utility services, and the like.

3. Applicants must agree to make the housing available only to veterans during the period of construction and for 30 days thereafter. In his sales agreement, a veteran or other purchaser is pledged to the same 30-day waiting period in case of a re-sale and the sale must be made at or below the maximum sale price originally paid.

4. The regulation makes possible also the conversion of existing structures where it is shown increased dwelling units will result and it also covers construction of dormitories or group housing for educational institutions for the benefit of veterans.

The materials to which priorities will apply include common and face brick, clay sewer pipe, structural tile, gypsum board, gypsum lath, cast iron soil pipe and fittings, cast iron radiation, bathtubs, lumber and millwork. CPA has announced that additions or deletions from the schedule may be made from time to time.

**WAS STILL ON IN CHINA?**  
CHUNGKING, Jan. 16 (U. P.)—Gen. Chang Chun, government representative on Gen. George C. Marshall's "peace committee," told the political consultative assembly today that both sides continued to receive reports of armed conflict despite the official truce in China's civil war.

OFFICIAL WEATHER

U. S. Weather Bureau

Date in Central Standard Time

Jan. 16 7:04 | Sunset 4:46

Precipitation 24 hrs. ending 7:30 a. m. .00

Total precipitation since Jan. 1 .92

Deficiency since Jan. 1 .92

The following table shows the temperature in other cities:

High Low

Atlanta 46 37

Baltimore 42 32

Chicago 26 18

Cincinnati 35 28

Cleveland 34 25

Denver 36 23

Evansville 32 23

Ft. Wayne 36 27

Indianapolis (city) 34 24

Kansas City 36 24

Los Angeles 52 40

Miami 80 72

Minneapolis-St. Paul 40 30

Newark 46 34

New York 40 34

Oklahoma City 33 27

Pittsburgh 38 28

St. Louis 34 24

San Antonio 46 34

Seattle 42 32

Washington, D. C. 42 38

Truck Wreckage Scattered Half Mile in Crossing Crash



Wreckage was scattered for a half mile when a fast New York Central passenger train crashed into the crumpled truck cab.



Richard Land, his wife and their 2-year-old son, Clayton (left to right) were killed instantly when the train struck their truck. Richard and Dale Land (extreme right), 18, was at school when his parents were killed.

Meat Supplies Dwindle as Housewives Rush Markets

Meat supplies melted from local shops today as frantic housewives mobbed the neighborhood butchers while the strike of packing house employees spread over the nation.

Here United Packing House Workers of America (C. I. O.) picketed Kingman & Co. and Armour & Co. Some 3000 had left their jobs by midnight. Meanwhile, the Indianapolis union stockyards was open for business as usual, but receipts were far short of normal and a walkout threatened there.

Meet Tomorrow

Arthur Kampert, international representative of the C. I. O. union, said that union representatives would meet with stockyard officials tomorrow to discuss the possibility of averting a strike.

Mr. Kampert said that the union would see that hospitals, public institutions and military installations will receive meat during the shutdown.

But the local housewife was in a different predicament. Butchers said that the raid was on today. In many cases the women were lining up four and five deep before the counters and lines 20 to 30 long was not uncommon.

Some Ration Cuts

The women are buying a full line of meats, especially roasts which can be used day after day for leftovers. The supply will last in several shops until the week-end but some butchers are going on a rationing basis. One store reported they will have to close the meat counter at noon every day.

Stark, Wetzel & Co. remained open, however. The plant employees are members of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers union (A. F. of L.). Company officials said that the worker's contract had some time to run and anticipate no work stoppage.

Burrell Wright, spokesman for Kingman & five other meat packing concerns, said that relations here are friendly between management and labor. He blames government red tape for the strike now in progress over the nation.

The unions have made arrangements with the companies to provide fire protection and maintain refrigeration facilities.

SOUTHPORT O. E. S.  
PLANS FRIENDS NIGHT

Friends night will be observed by Southport chapter 442, O. E. S., at 8 p. m. today in the Southport Masonic temple.

Guest officers who will occupy the various lodge stations are: Helen Wood, worthy matron; Warner M. Hockett, worthy patron; Ethel Johnston, associate matron; Ted Pyritz, associate patron; Esther Hallberg, secretary; Durbin, treasurer; Lucille Baxter, conductress; Georgia Hergt, associate conductress; Olive Wright, chaplain; Maggie Cook, marshal; Naomi Royer, Marie Delashmit, Ruth Townsend, Bernice Butler, Lucille McBee, Irene Tabler, Harvey Fagin and Beatrice Bower.

IN INDIANAPOLIS—EVENTS—VITALS

EVENTS TODAY

National Bee Keepers association, meeting, 9 a. m., Severin. Philip Morris Petroleum Co. meeting, 9 a. m., Washington.

Indiana Hotel association, luncheon, noon, Indianapolis. Indiana Federation of Labor, banquet, 12:15 p. m., Claypool.

Indiana State Board, luncheon, 12:15 p. m., Washington.

National Association of Life Underwriters, luncheon, 12:15 p. m., Indianapolis.

The American Revolution, luncheon, noon, Columbia club, luncheon, noon, Columbia New York Stock Exchange, Indianapolis branch, meeting, 12:15 p. m., Columbia club.

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BIRTHS

At Methodist—Oscar Ray Sharp.

At Methodist—James William Osten.

At Methodist—Ola Ruth Anderson.

At Methodist—Marie Preston.

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