

BASIL H. CLARK
SR. VICE COMMANDER

GEORGE J. OVERMYER
COMMANDER

WILLIAM T. BROGAN
JR. VICE COMMANDER

SCHWABE COLL

OLNEY E. KENNEY
QUARTERMASTER

LAWRENCE BRENT
ADJUTANT

GERALD F. O'BRIEN
SERVICE OFFICER

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Tulsa Post



Number 577

BILL R. SUTTLE
TRUSTEE—(3 YEARS)

FRANK HOLT
TRUSTEE—(2 YEARS)

GLENN V. DOUGLAS
TRUSTEE—(1 YEAR)

UPTOWN OFFICE
407-09 ORPHEUM BLDG.
PHONES 5-1324-5-1908

CLUBHOUSE
214 EAST 13TH PLACE
PHONE 4-5957

TULSA 3, OKLAHOMA

14 June 1946

Honorable George B. Schwabe
Senate Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear George:

Herewith please find copy of the letter directed to the President of the United States by the Veterans Organizations named therein.

The need for housing for veterans in Tulsa is urgent. We have directed the enclosed letter to the President and are asking all of the building material and supply dealers in Tulsa to assist in procuring the needed material and have requested Civilian Production Administration Local Board of Tulsa for help.

We have been unable to ascertain whether or not the contract granted to W. R. Grimshaw Company is on a material and labor cost plus basis or not so that we are unable to determine whether the talk of economy in the removal of material from Wichita, Kansas is the fault of the government agencies or the fault of the contractor.

The young men and women who are waiting for these houses to be completed should not be deprived of an opportunity to reestablish their home because of any nominal savings that might be made in procurement of materials if such economy will long delay the completion of the housing project.

We will greatly appreciate any information or assistance you may be able to give us to help get the Housing project completed at an early date.

Yours very truly,

Paul P. Burns

Paul P. Burns, Chairman
Housing Committee
Tulsa Post 577
Veterans of Foreign Wars

PPB/lmr
Enc.

BASIL H. CLARK
SR. VICE COMMANDER

GEORGE J. OVERMYER
COMMANDER

WILLIAM T. BROGAN
JR. VICE COMMANDER

OLNEY E. KENNEY
QUARTERMASTER

LAWRENCE BRENT
ADJUTANT

GERALD F. O'BRIEN
SERVICE OFFICER

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Tulsa Post



Number 577

BILL R. SUTTLE
TRUSTEE—(3 YEARS)

FRANK HOLT
TRUSTEE—(2 YEARS)

GLENN V. DOUGLAS
TRUSTEE—(1 YEAR)

UPTOWN OFFICE
407-09 ORPHEUM BLDG.
PHONES 5-1324-5-1908

CLUBHOUSE
214 EAST 13TH PLACE
PHONE 4-5957

TULSA 3, OKLAHOMA

13 June 1946

Mr. Harry Truman, President
United States of America
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Truman:

On March 6, 1946 the Federal Public Housing Authority authorized and started the construction of a Veterans Housing Project in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The first allotment was for 215 housing units. Since that time there have been allotted 120 additional units. There were in excess of 550 applications made by Veterans with families for occupancy of the proposed units within a very few days after the housing project was announced.

A Screening Committee, composed of representatives of the major war Veterans Organizations and the City of Tulsa decided to give preference first, to married Veterans with children who were compelled to live separate from their families because of lack of housing and, second, to married Veterans with children who were not adequately housed. Of the first applications filed, there were found to be more Veterans in the first preference group than the total of housing units allotted to Tulsa under the Federal Public Housing program. It is estimated that there are now in excess of 1500 Veterans in Tulsa, Oklahoma who are living separate from their wives and children because of lack of housing. Of the first 215 houses allotted, 18 units were reserved for negro war Veterans. Of the 197 units allotted to white war veterans, the Screening Committee found that the applications approved for occupancy of the 197 units for white Veterans included a total of 237 children and 28 mothers expecting babies.

The housing units allotted to Tulsa have been moved to Tulsa from Wichita, Kansas. However, evidence has been submitted by the Contractor, W. R. Grimshaw Company of Tulsa, Oklahoma that the housing units

Page 2
Ltr to President Truman
13 June 1946

cannot now be completed because the following materials are not obtainable; 300 rolls of 15-pound roofing felt, 15,000 feet of flooring, 215 transit or metal flues, 4,400 feet of two-inch galvanized pipes, 1,725 feet of one-inch galvanized pipe, 4,500 feet of two-inch black steel pipe, 2,500 feet of three-fourths inch black steel pipe, 1,000 feet of one-half inch galvanized pipe and approximately 1,000 couplings and fittings. The contractor advises that if the above material is made available to him, the housing units can be ready for occupancy within sixty days.

We are further informed that there is no priority for material for such housing projects and that if there were a priority for material, it would be of little assistance due to the fact that the material supply companies and firms do not have the material in stock or on hand. We are advised that the completion of the Veterans housing units here in Tulsa may be delayed indefinitely unless you issue a directive to the governmental agencies and sources of supply, subject to your administration, to make available the necessary building material.

A large number of Veterans who have returned home from the war within the last few months contend that they have seen large quantities of material such as are listed above, in government stock piles and warehouses. They are convinced that such material now idle in government stock piles and warehouses should be made available immediately for Veterans housing and be exclusively channeled into Veterans housing projects. The new Veterans believe that they are entitled to have suitable housing made available to them in order that they may be permitted to live in a house with their wife and children. They are insistent that there is an obligation upon the government of the United States to assist in the present emergency.

Our Housing Committee has been advised that a large amount of the pipes needed to complete the housing project in Tulsa was not moved from Wichita because it was not considered economical to take the pipes out of the ground. The wives and children, waiting for an opportunity to occupy the proposed housing units in Tulsa, who have been separated from their husbands and fathers during the war years, are not consoled or satisfied with an explanation that "it was not economical to move the pipes from the ground at Wichita." Such an excuse in the name of economy is not acceptable by the Veteran, his wife and family who have sacrificed so much in the interest of his Country.

We are sincere in our request for assistance and respectfully petition you to issue such executive order or directive as may be nec-

Page 3
Ltr to President Truman
13 June 1946

essary to relieve the shortage of material on the Tulsa Housing
Project and other similar projects.

Thanking you for any and all assistance that you may
be able to render, we are

Yours very truly,

TULSA POST 577
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

By George J. Overmyer
COMMANDER

JOE CARSON POST NO. 1
AMERICAN LEGION

By Ernest Ford
COMMANDER

VIRGIL DEEMS POST NO. 2
AMERICAN VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II

By Royce G. Gonzales
COMMANDER

TULSA VETERANS ONE-STOP CENTER

By Sal Reagan
CHAIRMAN