

URGENT!

SCHWABE COLL

ACUTE HOUSING SITUATION FACING RETURNING VETERANS *Recommendations of Tri-State Housing Conference*

TO

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

On May 10, 1945, a Tri-State Housing Conference was held in Fargo, North Dakota, at which there were delegates from North Dakota, western Minnesota, and northeastern South Dakota. This meeting was designed to bring together some of the top men representing government and private business in the housing and building materials field to consider first hand the acute housing situation existing in this area, and the serious social and psychological problems to be avoided as veterans now returning in increasing numbers are unable to find living quarters for themselves and their families.

Over one hundred persons participated in the Conference, including:

William K. Divers, Chicago, Regional Manager, **National Housing Agency**

J. G. Skaaren, Minneapolis, Regional Manager, Lumber Division, **War Production Board**.

Charles L. Freeman, Minneapolis, Regional Manager, Surplus Lumber Division, **Reconstruction Finance Corporation**

W. H. Badeaux, Minneapolis, Secretary, **Northwest Lumbermen's Association**

F. A. Mapes, Chicago, Regional Manager, Surplus Materials Division, **United States Department of Commerce**

Ben B. Lawshe, Washington, D. C., Manager, Commercial Organization Department, **Chamber of Commerce of the United States**

C. A. Williams, Fargo, Chairman, **Fargo Chamber of Commerce Housing Committee** and General Chairman of the Conference

Senator J. B. Bridston, Grand Forks, N. Dak., Chairman, **Grand Forks Civic & Commerce Association Housing Committee**, and Moderator of the Conference Discussion

R. A. H. Brandt, President, **Minot Association of Commerce**, and Vice Chairman of the Conference.

Organizations represented at the Conference included: Service Wives Clubs, Veterans Administration, Chambers of Commerce, municipal officials, builders, suppliers, and financial institutions.

The following resolutions were adopted at this Conference:

Resolution Number One

"WHEREAS, There is an acute shortage of building materials in the hands of distributors and retail outlets in this area; and

"WHEREAS, The transportation rates and shipping facilities limit the purchase of lumber to mainly one source—the Pacific Northwest States; and

"WHEREAS, The lumber material needs of the returning veterans must be met mainly from the Pacific Northwest States' supply; and

"WHEREAS, AA3 priorities in this area do not secure from the Pacific Northwest mills the necessary building materials for the distributors and retail outlets

"THEREFORE, The Tri-State Housing Conference here assembled recommends to the President of the United States, and to Congress assembled, that:

"1. The existing priorities allocated by the National Housing Agency for returning veterans be raised above the AA3 rating in order to provide high enough priorities to secure materials in this or any other area where similar difficulties are being experienced.

"2. Civilian needs of the United States be given priority over civilian rehabilitation in other countries."

Resolution Number Two

"WHEREAS, War Surplus building materials may, and probably will, become one of the important sources of materials to meet the existing crisis of housing shortage in this area; and

"WHEREAS, There is a lack of national policy to insure equality in the geographic distribution of said War Surplus building materials,

"THEREFORE, The Tri-State Housing Conference recommends to the President of the United States and to Congress, that necessary action be taken immediately to establish a national policy limiting to a minimum the number of agencies which will handle the sale of surplus property, and to incorporate into their programs recognition for the needs of the areas far removed from the location of the surplus materials.

"Duly passed and adopted this 10th day of May, 1945."

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE OF TRI-STATE HOUSING CONFERENCE

R. H. Barry, Chairman, Fargo, North Dakota
C. M. Carlson, Crookston, Minnesota
George Nygaard, Watertown, South Dakota
John F. Olson, Jamestown, North Dakota
John Schnoover, Jamestown, North Dakota
S. S. Shaw, Watertown, South Dakota
Deane Wiley, Crookston, Minnesota