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Housing Elderly

September 1, 1966

Please note and returns:
Mr. Carey
Mr. Keidel
Mr. Naylor
Mr. W. Rouse
Mr. Brady

Mr. Ralph Showalter
Executive Director
Social Development Corporation
1126 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Showalter:

JWR

I understand that you are currently having discussions with officials and consultants of the Administration on Aging (HEW) regarding the development of an educational program of particular interest to older age people who may be residing in or around the new town of Columbia.

Columbia is planned to be a complete city with a variety of income levels and a variety of age range. We are, therefore, prepared to welcome retirees as we are prepared to receive individuals and families in other age categories. We would be particularly interested in any projected study you might do which would lead to the establishment of an adult education program in which retired people with a strong academic background could have a significant role.

We are frankly concerned about the question of segregating housing for older persons from other types of housing in Columbia. While recognizing the advantages of various Federal assistance programs in providing rental housing at low cost, we believe that important social values may be lost in isolating older people. Is there some way to provide Federal support for housing for older persons that is scattered through the community instead of segregated in one place? I am sure that any study concerned with questions like this would provide thoughtful responses.

We would look forward with interest and anticipation to the results of your study and how these results might apply to Columbia. We would also welcome your recommendations as to how to proceed with practical implementation of an academic program involving older people.

Mr. Ralph Showalter

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As you may know, we are now in construction of Columbia, and the first phase of the town will be open next summer. Our first housing offerings are planned to reach from a sales price of under \$20,000 to over \$50,000 and at rents from \$120 per month for a studio apartment to over \$350 per month for a three bedroom apartment. Rents and prices will reach both lower and higher levels by the second and third years, with an inter-faith religious housing organization providing some Federally financed rental housing for people of limited incomes. We look forward to receiving any suggestions that would help us improve our program for the needs of retired people.

Sincerely,

James W. Rouse

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