

# **p** PROGRESSIVE **a** ARCHITECTURE

**newsletter**

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- The Housing Act of 1949, which is now the law of the land, can be summarized very briefly. Title I authorizes HHFA to make loans (for planning, land acquisition, and land preparation) and grants (% of loss involved) to localities, to assist locally initiated, planned, and managed slum-clearance and urban redevelopment undertakings. Only money for construction in this Title is for short-term loans for schools or other public facilities in redevelopment areas.
- Title II extends FHA's small-loan authority and that agency's 608 rental housing activity.
- Title III authorizes PHA low-rent public housing not to exceed 810,000 units over a six-year period. Costs are to be not more than \$1750 a room, which can be raised to \$2500 where really necessary.
- Title IV authorizes HHFA to conduct technical research and studies. Title V allows loans, subsidies, and grants by Secretary of Agriculture to farm owners for needed building improvements. Title VI, among other things, orders a census of housing in 1950 and decennially thereafter.
- Indications are that public housing activity under bill will start sooner than slum clearance, which will require an entirely new set-up at federal and, in many cases, at local level.
- Building Research Advisory Board of National Academy of Sciences has named William H. Scheick, architect (who headed housing research at U. of Illinois) executive director. Industry groups sponsoring Committee's work hope it can be coordinated with research called for under new housing bill. About \$15 million are now being spent annually in industrial research related to construction. Possibilities of coordination have never been better.
- John Knox Shear has been named head of the Department of Architecture at Carnegie Tech. U. of California has not yet named new Dean--President Sproule apparently can't make up his mind, the present faculty having been lukewarm to leading candidate.
- G. E. Kidder Smith has been granted President's Fellowship by Brown U., which allows him \$7500 to study and photograph architecture in Italy and Mediterranean area. Columbia's Perkins Boring Fellowship has been awarded to William Fontaine Jones, who will travel and study architectural developments in South America. Arthur Emerson Burton received A.I.A.'s Langley Fellowship to perform research on atomic age architecture. He will work with AEC at Iowa State College.
- Ken Stowell, until recently editor-in-chief of "Architectural Record," has resigned that position to become vice-president in charge of eastern operations for Giffels & Vallet, Inc., and L. Rosetti, Detroit architects and engineers.

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