

REMARKS OF SENATOR EDWARD W. BROOKE  
AT FAIR HOUSING MONTH CEREMONY  
APRIL 4, 1978

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO JOIN SENATOR HUMPHREY, SECRETARY PATRICIA HARRIS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY CHET MCGUIRE, BOB WEAVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING, AND THE MANY DISTINGUISHED GUESTS HERE THIS MORNING TO COMMEMORATE THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE FAIR HOUSING LAW AND TO REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE GOALS EMBODIED IN THAT LAW.

TITLE VIII OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1968 STATES SIMPLY AND CLEARLY THAT "IT IS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE, WITHIN CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITATIONS, FOR FAIR HOUSING THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES." IT DIRECTLY PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION IN THE SALE OR RENTAL OF HOUSING BECAUSE OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN OR SEX. IT FURTHER REQUIRES FEDERAL AGENCIES "TO ADMINISTER THEIR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES ... IN A MANNER AFFIRMATIVELY TO FURTHER THE PURPOSE" OF THE ACT. AS ONE WHO WAS ACTIVE IN THE INITIAL PASSAGE OF THIS LANDMARK BILL, I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING ITS IMPLEMENTATION OVER THE YEARS. AND I KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU IN THIS ROOM SHARE MY CONCERN THAT WE HAVE JUST NOT MADE SUFFICIENT PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING THE GOAL OF ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING IN THE PAST TEN YEARS.

THIS AUDIENCE IS ALL TOO AWARE OF THE EXISTING PATTERNS AND PRACTICES OF RESIDENTIAL DISCRIMINATION, SEGREGATION IN PUBLICLY-ASSISTED HOUSING, AND THE INABILITY OF THE POOR AND

MINORITIES TO ENTER THOSE "WALLED CITIES" WHICH WE KNOW AS EXCLUSIONARY SUBURBS. IN A RECENTLY COMPLETED STUDY, THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION CONCLUDED THAT EXCLUSIONARY ZONING AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ACTION "HAVE PREVENTED ACCESS TO DECENT HOUSING AND HAVE REINFORCED AND AGGRAVATED PATTERNS OF RACIAL AND ECONOMIC SEGREGATION." AND THE ABA STUDY FOUND THAT "COURTS AND LEGISLATURES HAVE DONE FAR TOO LITTLE TO PREVENT THIS GOVERNMENTAL ABUSE OF POWER." CLEARLY THE CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION IN 1968 THAT HOUSING DISCRIMINATION MUST END HAS NOT YET LED TO EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY IN HOUSING FOR MANY OF OUR POOR AND MINORITY CITIZENS.

IT IS MY JUDGMENT THAT THE ISSUE OF EQUAL ACCESS TO HOUSING SHOULD BE ONE OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN ANY APPROACH TO DEALING WITH OUR URBAN PROBLEMS. AND WE MUST MAKE SUFFICIENT DECENT HOUSING AVAILABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL AMERICANS.

I AM PLEASED THAT HUD SECRETARY PATRICIA HARRIS HAS MADE THE ELIMINATION OF HOUSING DISCRIMINATION AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE MISSION OF HER DEPARTMENT. AND SHE HAS RECOGNIZED THAT "FAIR HOUSING" MUST BE INTERNALIZED AS PART OF EACH HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AT HUD. IN THE PAST YEAR, HUD HAS:

- BEGUN TO MONITOR EFFECTIVELY THE PERFORMANCE OF LOCALITIES RECEIVING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR COMPLIANCE WITH EQUAL OPPORUTNITY

