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In your efforts to achieve a meaningful balance of economic mix
in our Federal housing programs. Moreover, I remain convinced that
if we continue to take steps to the politically popular restriction
of "rental restrictions," our children and our children's children
will be faced with a divided environment. What say shall I not see
your determination that we follow and possibly decrease social
integration.

February 18, 1972

Honorable George Romney
Secretary
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear George:

Thank you very much for providing me with a copy of Mr. Fred
Kramer's suggestions relative to the problem of providing
greater housing opportunities for low-income families. While
I have not yet had an opportunity to study his proposed regulations
in depth, a cursory review has given me the impression that they
represent an imaginative approach to the problem in those instances
where eligible sponsors have expressed a willingness to take the
initiative.

Our conversation the other day reassured me that we share common
goals in this area. Aside from the important social benefits that
follow from economic integration, both of us, I believe, are aware
of the pressure building up in the wake of the judicial decisions
that have come out of the federal courts in Chicago, Philadelphia
and Georgia.

The judiciary have made it clear that, absent further guidance from
Congress, they are prepared to move forward in a haphazard fashion.
The real question facing us at this point is not "whether," but rather
"how" we are going to expand the housing opportunities for low-income
families with a minimum of disruption to them and the communities
they seek to enter.

Important administrative steps have been taken under your able
leadership which I applaud and support. The issuance of the "Affirm-
ative Fair Housing Marketing Guidelines" and the most recent "Project
Selection Criteria" will assist many communities in the orderly develop-
ment of responsible housing policies. Nevertheless, I strongly believe
that the failure of Congress to give you additional statutory tools,
would amount to a serious abdication of our responsibility in this area
as a co-equal branch of government and would leave you standing alone

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in your efforts to achieve a meaningful balance of economic mix in our federal housing programs. Moreover, I remain convinced that if we succumb at this point to the politically popular recognition of "community resistance," our children and our children's children will be faced with a divided environment that may equal if not exceed the disruption that has followed judicially-decreed school desegregation.

In formulating the amendments that I offered to the Housing Consolidation and Simplification Act, I made every effort to build in flexibility for purposes of administration. Further, I have confidence that the American people will respond to the urgency of the situation and will accept a reasonable proposal for the controlled development of housing patterns.

Please know that I and my staff stand ready to work further with you and your staff on our common goals as we move forward.

With continuing respect and warm personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Edward W. Brooke

EWB:Hjg