

Dr. King Tells New Slum Housing Plan

Seeks U. S. Loan for Repairing 500 Units

A housing redevelopment project to acquire and rehabilitate 500 slum housing units in three Chicago neighborhoods was announced yesterday by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., president of the Southern Christian Leadership conference.

Dr. King said a corporation will be established to acquire the buildings, repair them, and then turn them over to Negro-owned cooperatives. Financing will be provided by a low-interest Federal Housing administration insured loan of 4 million dollars that has been approved by the department of housing and urban development.

Pick Project Leaders

The corporation will be composed of members of the S. C. L. C., the Coordinating Council of Community Organizations, and local business men.

"We strongly believe the project will provide a model for the rehabilitation of urban ghettos under a program designed to meet the very human needs of the residents," said Dr. King at a press conference in the Liberty Baptist church, 4849 South Park way.

King said the buildings will be purchased in three communities—Lawndale, East Garfield Park, and Kenwood-Oakland.

Co-ops Already Formed

The unique aspect of this project lies in the fact that the rehabilitated, low-rent housing will then be turned over to co-operative organizations already established in the concerned communities, and administered by the community co-ops themselves," said King.

He said welfare recipients will be urged to join the co-operatives, but added that arrangements have yet to be made with the county department of public aid.

\$100,000 to Charter

Sivart corporation, 414 E. 47th st., a mortgage banker, will handle the financing. The 4-million-dollar loan will be payable at an interest rate of 3 per cent for 4 years. The funds will serve as 100 per cent mortgages on the property.

King said that the planners will raise 100,000 to charter the corporation which will be headed by Jess Gill, a former realty loan specialist with the FHA.

"As I have said many times in recent months, if urban re-



[UPI Photo]

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (3d from left) at news conference yesterday. From left are: Dempsey Travis, president of Sivart corporation; Al Raby, C. C. C. O. convener; Dr. King; Ernest Stevens, director of Chicago insuring office of the FHA; Frank Palmer, chairman of the Community Renewal Foundation; and Jess Gill, project director.

newal and redevelopment are to succeed in achieving their stated goals of uplifting the quality of urban life, then these same programs must be re-

newal of, by, and for the people," said King. "This program is just that. And altho it is minute in comparison to the epic proportions

of the problem, it may well serve as the initiating model for programs to renew all of the vast and teeming ghettos of our cities, north and south."