IUE-CIO Civil Rights Conference
Miami Hotel
Dayton, Ohio
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Resolution Condemning the Government's Housing Policy

One of the most alarming situations in the United States today is the rapid increase in segregated housing which is turning our country into isolated areas of people of a common stamp.

During the great building boom which has been going on since the beginning of the Federal Housing Administration in 1934, discrimination against Negroes has been the rule. Between the years of 1935 and 1952 less than one percent of new dwelling construction was for non-white families who make up 10 percent of the population. Negroes have been forced to live in slum areas which have become for all practical purposes nothing more than ghettos.

The most shocking thing is the fact that the federal government which has been responsible to a very large extent for the building boom, has been one of the prime forces in excluding Negroes. The Federal Housing Authority required of builders that they sell only to whites and have restrictive covenants in the contracts. Thus the full force of the federal government was thrown on the side of segregation and white supremacy.

Today the situation is little improved. The government no longer requires that builders who are seeking FHA loans include restrictive covenants, but this is no real improvement because the courts have already declared such covenants non-enforceable anyway. What is happening now is that the government is backing construction even though it knows full well that such dwellings will be for whites only. The suburban developments which have sprung up all over the country with the financial assistance of the government in the form of mortgage insurance are almost without exception Jim Crow developments.

The federal government, both the Congress and the Executive Branch, have refused to put an end to this shocking scandal. Our tax money is this very day being used to back segregated housing. The pattern being established will plague us for decades to come.

Therefore be it resolved: That the IUE-CIO Civil Rights Conference here assembled vigorously denounces the federal government's continued policy of granting financial backing to the construction of segregated dwellings.

The Congress of the United States is urged to rectify this glaring example of government endorsed and supported discrimination by passing legislation which will prohibit federal assistance to builders who refuse to rent and sell to whites and colored alike.

President Eisenhower is urged to use the great power which he possesses as head of our government to put a stop to this sorry situation.