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"Cities program taken to court"

NO AUTHOR GIVEN

The U.S. District Court for Eastern Pennsylvania will begin consideration Thursday of a suit filed by the North City Area-Wide Council of Philadelphia against both the city and federal governments' handling of the Model Cities program.

The Area-Wide Council claims that \$24.5 million of federal money, granted to Philadelphia under the Model Cities Program, is being improperly administered.

The council's court complaint reads, "Plaintiffs bring this action to enjoin Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, George W. Romney, and the other defendants from eliminating from the Philadelphia Model Cities Program the 'widespread citizen participation' required by the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966."

The Nixon Administration has indicated that it intends to remove the Model Cities program from citizen control, and place responsibility in the hands of local governments.

The Area-Wide Council, which was established two years ago by a unanimous vote of 458 community leaders to represent the target area in the Model Cities program, feels the Nixon Administration is violating the original intent to the law.

Walter Palmer, who holds down a \$10,000 a year position with the council, is acting as a visiting professor in the University's history department this year. He was also a prominent figure in the February sit-in in College Hall.

Defendants in tomorrow's hearing include Romney; the Department of Housing and Urban Development; Philadelphia Mayor James A. Tate; Goldie Watson, Model Cities Administrator of Philadelphia; and the City of Philadelphia.

Mrs. Watson, reached Tuesday at her city hall office, declined to comment on the suit.

The city administration's original model cities application contained clauses permitting strong citizen participation in the administration of the grant.

This application was in compliance with the Model Cities Act as interpreted by the Johnson Administration. "The Johnson Administration," reported the New

York Times, "sought a system of shared control between city halls and the residents of target neighborhoods."

The Area-Wide Council says this application was denied in a letter from Floyd Hyde, assistant secretary of housing and urban development, because of the heavy involvement of citizen groups and insufficient involvement of the city of Philadelphia.

William R. Meek, executive director of the council, told the New York Times in an interview, "The Nixon administration's policy will wreck the Model Cities program throughout the United States. It will rule out a decision making role for citizens of the affected areas, ending the partnership approach in an innovative program."

The agreement finally reached in Philadelphia has limited citizen participation on the operating board of the Model Cities program to one third of the total board.

The council claims that the application no longer provides for widespread citizen participation as required by the act.

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"Q-partite fight,"

By LYNN RACHEL MOLLICK

Recent speeches at the Community of Demonstrators' meeting calling for, among other things, the return of 60 acres of Unit 111 to the community have sent me to numerous files, offices, and libraries, during the last two weeks. My search has been an effort to find out how the present situation in Unit 111 developed, and what we can do about it.

Newspaper clippings collected over the past several years indicate that the history of the area's redevelopment has been one of frustration and anger for its residents. Anyone who can imagine being evicted from his home, rented or otherwise, could understand such sentiments. However, there have been other aggravations beyond this one.

While newspapers indicate that some hostility seems to have been directed toward the University and her science center, a good deal has been aimed at the Redevelopment Authority, School Board, Federal Housing Commission, and City Hall, as well.

Among the frustrations the community has faced have been a broken promise by Mayor Tate to develop a 7.6 acre parcel of land, a time consuming passing of the community proposal for this land between offices until the School District condemned it by its right of eminent domain, followed by a "compromise" giving the community acres. Besides these, there have been