

CITIZENS ORGANIZE TO AID SLUM FIGHT

**Realty, Building, Labor, Tenant
and Civic Groups Join Move
to Spur Low-Rent Housing**

FIRST COOPERATIVE PLAN

**Eight Committees to Examine
Problems and Give Reports
at Fall Conference**

Formation of the Citizens Housing Council to coordinate ideas looking to the solution of slum clearance problems and low-cost housing was announced yesterday by Harold S. Buttenheim, editor of *The American City*, at a meeting in the City Club.

Said to be the first cooperative effort in this direction, the council is composed of representatives of real estate, construction and labor interests, as well as civic, welfare and tenants' organizations.

Outlining the plan of the Council, Mr. Buttenheim, as chairman, said:

"This organization represents an effort to find a newer and perhaps more practicable approach to the city's problems of low-rent housing and slum rehabilitation. Heretofore there has been no method for bringing the interested groups together for the development of a sound program."

Eight committees will be appointed within the next week for a study of the problems involved. They will concern themselves with city planning and zoning, finance and taxation, land assembly, new housing, old housing, rehousing of displaced families, legislation and public education. An expert in the field to be covered by each committee will act as chairman and the personnel will represent varied points of view. Open meetings of the committees will be held at which technicians, organizations and individuals may be invited to present their views.

The committees will prepare recommendations, which will be considered at a city-wide housing conference in the Fall. Recommendations which will merit general endorsement are expected to be developed in this manner, while others may suggest the need for further study.

Asked whether the council was composed of official representatives of the various groups, Mr. Buttenheim said that real estate and labor organizations were not represented. Individual realty interests, however, were represented, he said, citing that James J. Felt was a member and Lawrence B. Elliman was vice chairman. At this point Mrs. Samuel I. Rosenman, a member representing the United Neighborhood Houses, pointed out that the housing problem would never be solved without the cooperation of every interest involved.

Stating that the new organization should be very helpful in bringing about a comprehensive housing program, Mr. Felt said that "so many plans have been put forward by every one concerned with the problem that their very number has retarded the development of a solution."

The personnel of the various committees is expected to be announced shortly, according to Mr. Buttenheim.

Among the organizations cooperating with the council are the City Club, New York Building Congress, the Welfare Council, City-Wide Tenants Council, United Neighborhood Houses and the Women's City Club. Temporary headquarters are at the City Club, 55 West Forty-fourth Street.