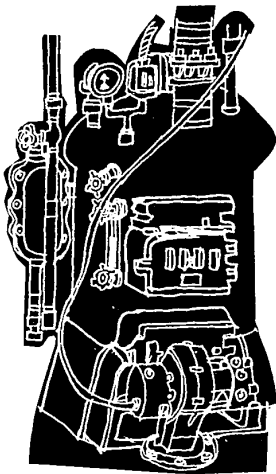


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# Area Congressmen Back Housing Bill

WASHINGTON (Observer-Examiner) — Observers and Congressmen gave bipartisan support to passage of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Act of 1969, which directly affects projects of local communities needing federal aid.

Republican Marvin Esch, whose 2nd District includes Plymouth, and Democrat William Ford of the 15th (Grand City and Westland) voted for the House version.

The House approved the measure by voice vote, 115-23. A slightly different Senate version passed previously, a conference committee is attempting to work out differences.

THE ACT provides for the extension of all Federal Housing Authority (FHA) programs, urban renewal and housing assistance programs, model cities and metropolitan development programs, and continued

assistance for rural housing. A significant amendment this year calls for removal of "restraints against the use of new technologies and materials which may reduce the cost or improve the quality of housing construction and rehabilitation under HUD administered programs."

The amendment is popularly referred to as "The Breakthrough Amendment" because it is aimed at ensuring the suc-

cess of "Operation Breakthrough," a program designed to provide low-cost, high quality housing on a volume basis. One section of the Act extends through 1971, the existing appropriation authority of approximately \$400 million for grants under the water and sewer program.

In addition, it authorizes the appropriation of a further \$100 million for these grants in fiscal year 1971.

HUD, of course, is the agency most Observers and community leaders look to for federal grant assistance.

CONGRESSMAN ESCH, in a news release issued just before the final House vote, said he would support both the basic act and the amendment.

"In 1966," he reviewed, "the Congress strongly encouraged the secretary of Housing and Urban Development to promote the acceptance and application of new techniques and materials in order to reduce the cost, improve the quality and thereby increase the production of housing units."

"Operation Breakthrough is the response to this demand. If we are to meet our goal of 26 million units in the next decade, we will obviously have to apply this new approach," said Esch.

"This year we may not even achieve one million housing

starts. The congressional mandate calls for 2.7 million starts annually. Last year there were approximately 1.5 million starts.

"We are falling behind rather than forging ahead in our attempts to meet this critical housing shortage,"

"THE AMENDMENT which I have supported," said Esch, "will indicate to the secretary of HUD the sincerity of our commitment to meeting the housing goal which we have set for ourselves and our willingness to support the secretary in his efforts to meet that goal through

Operation Breakthrough. "Secretary George Romney has informed me that he strongly endorses this type of legislation because it is urgently needed to assure the success of Operation Breakthrough."

"The need for community housing through comprehensive planning, new construction techniques, housing assistance, and facilities development, dramatically affects the environment in which we live and raise our children. "I will continue to support programs which will lighten our tax dollars to improve our quality of life."

## Shabby Old Roof Mars Image

If your home improvement plan for the year include an exterior face-lift, don't overlook the roof.

A house can have a spanking new paint job, a remodeled entry and attractive new trim, but if the roof is shabby it detracts from the entire house.

Too often, homeowners wait until the roof springs a leak before they consider installing a new one. To do so can be poor judgment, both economically and aesthetically.

In the first place, once a roof starts leaking expensive water damage to the house interior can result. And, if you have to put on a new roof in a hurry, you may not take the time to select one that will give you the most for your money.

ALSO IMPORTANT is the undeniable visual impact of the roof. In most cases, it's the largest exterior surface of a house. Neglecting the roof's role in total house beauty is like topping an expensive new suit with a shabby old hat.

Today's quality roofing materials are designed for long-term, maintenance-free service and beauty -- notably in the areas of color and texture. For instance, heavyweight asphalt shingles are available in a wide spectrum of decorator colors.

These include traditional blacks and whites, soft pastels, interesting blends, and the new "earth" and "forest" hues (shades of brown and green which allow effective color coordination of the house with its natural surroundings). Deep

shadow lines created by the uneven edges of heavyweight shingles give the roof surface a dramatic "textured" look.

ADDITIONALLY, heavyweights offer maximum protection and minimal maintenance. They carry the U. L. label for fire-resistance. The self-sealing variety (with factory-applied adhesive that bonds each shingle to the one below) also carries a UL label for wind-resistance.

The extra thickness of heavyweights (they weigh 200 or more pounds per 100 square feet of roof coverage) makes them extremely durable. They are designed by the manufacturers to last at least 20 to 25 years without service.

Considering the important jobs a good roof does in terms of beauty and protection, re-roofing is a comparatively low-cost item. Quality roofing like heavyweight asphalt shingles represents a small percentage of the total cost of an average home.

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"This year we may not even achieve one million housing

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