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THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20410

NOV 6 1978

*For
summary*

Mrs. Etta Colbert
489 Phillips Street
Aliquippa, Pennsylvania 15001

Dear Mrs. Colbert:

I am pleased to inform you that we have been able to resolve the problem that you raised with the President during his visit to Aliquippa on September 23 of this year. Discussions between the HUD Area Office and representatives of the Borough of Aliquippa and Beaver County have led to the issuance of the enclosed letter from Paul Cain, Area Office Manager, to those local government representatives indicating that HUD expects acquisition activity set forth in the fifth year community development application to encompass your home and some other homes in your immediate vicinity.

As you may know, this community development application is required by law to be subjected to thorough public analysis and public participation. Assuming, however, that there is no adverse reaction to the inclusion of these activities in the community development plan, we fully expect that the fifth year community development plan for the Borough of Aliquippa will deal adequately with your concerns.

I appreciate your help in enabling us to uncover this matter and deal with it effectively.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Patricia Roberts Harris

Patricia Roberts Harris

Enclosure

Copy to: The President

Mr. Eli Corak
Chairman, Board of Commissioners
of the County of Beaver
697 State St.
Beaver County Courthouse
Beaver, Pa. 15009

Mr. John A. Ross
Mayor, Borough of Aliquippa
300 Franklin Avenue
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

Gentlemen:

On Tuesday, October 10, 1978, members of my staff met with Stephen Petz of the Beaver County Redevelopment Authority and George Scarborough of the Borough of Aliquippa concerning proposed acquisition and demolition activities in the Iron/Baker Street area.

We learned that a number of vacant, dilapidated properties on Iron Street and the lower part of Phillips Street are proposed for clearance.

HUD is concerned that by clearing these properties you will be creating an adverse effect on those residents who will remain on the upper part of Phillips Street. We feel that these residents will be isolated, thereby causing an untenable situation.

The only solution to this problem appears to be the development of a sound renewal plan for the area which should include the acquisition and demolition of all properties on Phillips Street and those requiring clearance on Baker and Iron Street.

We believe there exists a real need for treatment in the area. Your fifth year Community Development application must identify the need and develop a reasonable, obtainable comprehensive strategy for meeting the needs of the Iron/Baker Street area. Failure to do so could result in the imposition of sanctions under the provisions of the CDBG regulations.

2

If you should have any questions or if we can be of any assistance to you in this matter, please feel free to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Paul F. Cain

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 4, 1978

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To Etta Colbert

It was a pleasure to talk with you during the Town Hall Meeting at Aliquippa High School. Your participation in the discussions helped to make the occasion both successful and enjoyable.

Secretary Harris will be following up on your question. Thank you for asking it.

Sincerely,

JIMMY CARTER

Mrs. Etta Colbert
489 Phillips Street
Aliquippa, Pennsylvania 15001

WH tissue to: The Honorable Patricia R. Harris

3-24454

Secretary Harris: pp 1605, 1606 →

Administration of Jimmy Carter, 1978

Sept. 23

Aliquippa, Pennsylvania

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at a Town Meeting. September 23, 1978

MAYOR ROSS. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is John Ross, mayor of Aliquippa. On behalf of the borough of Aliquippa, I welcome all of you to the Aliquippa town meeting. And now, may I present to you the President of the United States, Jimmy Carter.

THE PRESIDENT. Mr. Mayor, thank you very much.

It's a great pleasure for me to be back in this beautiful part of Pennsylvania and one of the most beautiful parts of the United States.

My wife, Rosalynn, during the campaign, spent 5 days in Beaver Valley, and all the people who were up here campaigning on the Peanut Brigade and my family and I thought that the most delightful campaign experience of our whole 1976 effort was in Pennsylvania. And we thank you for it and also thank you for the great results that helped to put me in the White House.

My mother is a great sports fan, and anybody who cares about sports knows about Beaver County. As you know, Joe Namath was a great friend of my mother's when she was in Alabama and still is. Pete Maravich played for our team in Atlanta, great athlete who began here—Tony Dorsett, another great athlete, as you know; Doc Medich, and many others. I won't try to mention all of them that came from here, but there must be something special about the climate or the training because you have set a standard for the rest of the country in athletics.

And that's not all. We have a great song composer from Georgia, Johnny Mercer. And one of his good friends and fellow composers was also from here, and that's Henry Mancini. He was at the

White House not long ago and gave a beautiful concert. And he and Johnny Mercer wrote several songs together, including "Moon River," which is one of my favorite waltzes—Rosalynn and I like to dance to it—and "Days of Wine and Roses" and many others.

So, we have not only a lot of political interrelationships with you but athletic interrelationships, cultural interrelationships, and just personal friendships.

It's a good opportunity for me as President of our great country to come here and have a frank exchange with you. Not only are you responsible for my election, but in a very important way you are responsible for how good a job I can do representing you in the White House.

There are some things that prey heavily on my mind, many ideas, but I want to defer to you this morning on your questions. There are two, though, that I would like to mention just in passing that might stimulate some questions from you.

ADMINISTRATION POLICIES

One of the great duties of a government is to police itself, to make sure that the core of our Nation in government is clean and decent and honest and open. Our Nation suffered the last few years because that has not always been true. And when it isn't true, there's a loss of trust among people like you in the government which is yours and in the elected officials which you put in office.

The Senate has already passed a very strong ethics bill. The House this week turned away many crippling amendments. And my hope is that next week our Nation will have a new standard of performance in financing and campaign contributing procedures for the Members of the Congress. I inherited many problems. This was one of them. And the Congress has cooperated.

And the General Services Administration, one of the biggest agencies in the Fed-

I have a question for you.

Mr. President, we have lost three old-fashioned things—respect, management, and cooperation. We no longer have small town lifestyles. Everything is deteriorating, and the youth are going to the cities.

Do you have any community development package plans for improving small town economics so we could keep our young people in our towns?

THE PRESIDENT. Thank you, Ms. Rosmini. I think you know you mentioned a subject that's dear to my own heart, the small towns. I come from Plains, which has a total population of less than 700, and we are trying to make sure that in the allocation of Federal funds for different projects—highways, schools, health care, beautification—these needs are met.

I think it's a very serious thing when we have a barrier built between our large metropolitan centers and the more rural areas of our country. I believe it's accurate to say that in the last year almost, we have turned the corner in providing strength in the basically agricultural regions with the new farm bill that went into effect October 1, 1977, which happens to be my birthday.

We also have tried to bring together for the first time in many years the local, State, and Federal officials who work together as a team, rather than having them separated one from another. In the White House under my top assistant, Jack Watson, we have a continuing mechanism by which any mayor or county official from the smallest towns and counties in our country can come directly to me through Jack Watson to get needs met.

In the departments, of economic development under the Commerce Secretary Housing and Urban Development, Health, Education, and Welfare, Labor, we're trying to make sure that the programs are not designed specifically for just the large metropolitan centers. I think

it's very important for us to retain the strength of our small communities and the agricultural areas. And since this is where I came from, and you can rest assured it will never be ignored as long as I'm President.

That's a good question.

URBAN RENEWAL

Q. Good afternoon, Mr. President. My name is Mrs. Etta Colbert, and I live in Aliquippa. I also live in the Logstown District of Aliquippa.

My question is, since the Logstown District, or part of it, is being redeveloped, and homes and buildings are being torn down and others are not, I would just like to know why are some of the buildings and some of the homes being torn down and others are left to stand in a very critical, deplorable condition? And that's my question. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT. Thank you. I wish I knew the answer about your particular community, but I don't. I think it might be good for me to have Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Department, Mrs. Pat Harris contact you directly if you don't mind, with a telephone call and see if she can investigate the exact problems that cause you concern.

As you know, the basic decisions on which particular homes or buildings are torn down and which ones are left standing have to be under our own system of government a decision made by private families and also by local government and State government officials. It's not right nor proper for the Federal Government to come in and make a decision about which houses to tear down or leave. And I think this is something that must be done by the local people themselves.

But I'll ask Pat Harris, if you don't mind, to give you a call directly so that she can have one of her people look into the question, since I'm not familiar with

the exact circumstances you describe.

Is that okay?

Q. Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT. Thank you, Mrs. Colbert.

PRAYER IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Q. Good afternoon, Mr. President. My name is Attorney Melvin Clark, Jr., and I'm residing in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

I first would like to commend you on your splendid efforts at Camp David. I think I can speak for the majority of Americans in saying that we are extremely proud. I would like to ask my question as a representative of the churches in and around Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.

That question is simply, what is your personal opinion on bringing prayer back into the public schools?

THE PRESIDENT. Thank you, Attorney Clark, for your comment and also your question.

I am not in favor of the Government requiring prayer in the schools. At the same time, I'm not in favor of the Government prohibiting or preventing prayer in the schools. My own religious beliefs, which I think are compatible with the Supreme Court decisions on this, are that the first amendment to the Constitution, separating the church and the state, must be maintained.

I believe that prayer is a private relationship or communication between a person and God, and that each person should have a right to worship as he or she chooses. So, I think that prayer ought to be permitted in the schools, but not required for a particular student.

NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Q. Good afternoon. My name is Alice Feehley. I'm from Erie, Pennsylvania. I have a question for you.

Considering your principles for the national health program, you say in it that

there will be no additional Federal spending until the year 1983. I want to know if that means that—

THE PRESIDENT. No additional what, Miss Feehley?

Q. Federal spending, okay?—until 1983; also that there is no adverse impact on Government budget or the taxpayer. Does that mean what we have will stay in the budget of the Government now, or does that mean we can expect no tax increase or no new Federal programs?

THE PRESIDENT. That's an excellent question, and one of the most difficult I will get today.

Let me take just a moment to describe the problem that we have. We need to have some immediate changes made in the health delivery system in our country. We need to have an emphasis on prevention of disease, the cheapest possible way to ensure a person's health. We need to have an expansion of the kind of people who can treat illness once it occurs, under the supervision of medical doctors themselves, more use of physicians assistants, registered nurses, laboratory technicians, in some instances, special instances, and so forth.

We need to have more emphasis on outpatient treatment and not require persons who don't really need it to be admitted to the hospital at very large cost.

We need to fill in some of the gaps in our present health care coverage, because at this time, the bill for the Federal Government, including health programs, is paid by those who are able to work and pay income taxes primarily, and they are exactly the ones that receive practically no benefits from the Federal health programs.

Many people are not covered by private health insurance. The most important need we have immediately, though, is to put a lid on the cost of hospital care. We have a hospital cost containment proposal