

Civic group hits Cole housing plan

WASHINGTON Proposed anti-discrimination plans of Housing Administrator Albert M. Cole, submitted to the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, represent a "doctrine of appeasement and expedi-

ency" and are "unworthy of our country."

This statement was made to the Senate Banking and Currency Committee in a letter made public last week.

The letter, released by the

NAACP and signed by Clarence Mitchell, the bureau director, was sent to Sen. Homer Capehart, committee chairman, in reply to a statement sent to the committee by Mr. Cole on April 6.

The NAACP charged that under Mr. Cole's plan, FHA-insured housing developments from which colored families now are barred solely because of race, would continue to be racially segregated.

Supports Policies

Meanwhile, the association pointed out, Mr. Cole would have the Federal Government underwrite the cost of building segregated housing for colored and other minority groups.

"The NAACP strongly opposes a program which would isolate minority group families from the mainstream of American life," the letter declared.

The letter asked the committee and the Congress to enact strong safeguards against racial discrimination in the federal housing bill—S. 2938—now in committee.

Safeguards Needed

Unless such safeguards are incorporated in the housing bill, Mr. Mitchell asserted "the Housing Agencies will continue their present program of promoting racial segregation with the help of federal funds.

"Every housing official, including Mr. Cole, knows that FHA-insured projects are designated as white or for colored at the time lenders agree to advance funds. Hence, the present policy forbids restrictive covenants in writing, but promotes exclusion from new housing through other types of agreements by the builders, lenders, and occupants.

"It is unlikely that the present housing officials will depart from this policy unless they are clearly instructed to do so by your committee."

Amendment Offered

The letter noted that on March 24 last, the NAACP offered an amendment to the proposed housing bill which would specify:

"The aids and powers made available under the several titles of this Act are not to be conditioned or limited in any way on account of race, religion, or national origin of builders, lenders, renters, buyers, or families to be benefited."