Laud Germantowners For Fight Against High Priced Housing: 'High Rise' ...
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Laud Germantowners For Fight Against High Priced Housing

'High Rise' Type Apartments Rapped By Settlement Group

By CHARLES THOMAS, Staff Writer

The Germantown Settlement has received letters from the Philadelphia Housing Authority and the Philadelphia Housing Association commending its fight against the construction of "high rise" apartment type public housing units in the Germantown area.

Active in the Wister, Morton and upper Germantown areas, the Settlement serves approximately 18,000 people. A Red Feather Service, founded in 1849 and the product of a merger of the Morton Day Nursery and the Germantown Community House in 1934, its program is "helping people help themselves."

STAND COMMENDED

The Philadelphia Housing Association commended the active stand taken by the Settlement in attempting to prevent the construction of a high rise project in the Wister area.

The Philadelphia Housing Authority also wrote the Settlement leaders, agreeing with a part of the protest against the trend of public housing to become like an institution. They were in full accord with the need to build more projects that blend with the surrounding neighborhoods.

HIGH COST OF LAND

However, the letter said, the very high cost of acquiring land and a general increase in the cost of building has forced them to build these high rise units to be able to keep within their budget.

The Philadelphia Housing Association a private civic organization with Dorothy Montgomery as Executive Director, has completed a very extensive survey of housing in the city. They have taken the stand that it is "preferable to build well than to build much if there has to be a choice." Founded in 1909, they are the oldest organization of this type in the country.

ACTIVE PROGRAM

Covering the Germantown area from Wayne Junction to Washington Lane, the Settlement fosters block organizations and neighborhood councils as a part of a active program to maintain the Germantown neighborhood.

They have opened a Wister area office at the the former Thomas millinery shop at 5279 Germantown, ave. Part of the funds for the rental costs of the operation will come from a grant of the Leeds and Northrup Foundation. This will be applied to rental costs only.

Staff member Richard Bargans who works in the Wister area reports a number of block organizations have been formed since September.

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