

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

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EEC COMMISSION STUDIES HOUSING NEEDS FOR COMMUNITY WORKERS

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 20 --- Representatives of the European Community and private industry investigated Community housing needs at a labor housing policy meeting conducted by the EEC Commission in Brussels December 16 to 19.

Three aspects of the Community housing problem were discussed -- increasing available housing, analyzing housing demand and housing distribution.

The conference participants found that housing construction is lagging behind industrial production in the Community and rent prices have risen more than the cost of living in the last few years. The 1,300,000 dwellings which are built in the Community each year have proved insufficient to meet growing demand.

The conferees recommended that diverse tastes and the effect of urbanization in the Community be considered in assessing housing needs. They also suggested studying "critical categories" of the population, such as, older persons, large families, young married couples, agricultural families and foreign workers.

Concerning the distribution of housing, builders were encouraged to offer a diversified range of houses to appeal to various Community economic groups rather than to those who can afford houses at the market price.

The Commission agenda includes a review of the slum problem and an immediate concentration on agricultural housing and salaries. After solving the scarcity of housing for national workers, the Commission will turn to the question of providing dwellings for the migrant worker.

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