

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

March 16, 1977

TO: Presidents of the Construction and Building Trades Unions and
the Business Agents for the Boston locals
FROM: Congressmen Drinan, Early, Harrington, Tsongas, Senators Brooke
and Kennedy
RE: HUD Residential Rehabilitation Demonstration Program

Gentlemen:

We strenuously urge you to do all that is in your power to implement the local agreements between the Massachusetts building trades unions and developers to participate in the HUD Residential Rehabilitation Demonstration Program. We are well aware of the numerous problems and the confused history of this program. However, we do not feel that these problems are of sufficient magnitude to justify the loss of 1490 units of much needed subsidized housing to Boston, Brockton, Newburyport, and Lawrence. This is to say nothing of the estimated \$48-60 million in construction work which the implementation of this program will bring to our hard-pressed building trades.

We speak as members who have consistently supported the goals and programs of organized labor. We intend to closely monitor the operation of the program to insure that the best interests of labor are given the highest priority by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Labor.

We cannot afford to lose this work. If agreements are not signed by the April 1 deadline, HUD will simply reassign the units to back-up cities. Such an action will significantly diminish our ability to argue effectively for other job creating legislation.

Again, we urge you as strongly as we can to implement the pending agreement.