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*Paul Tsongas*

COLLOQUY REGARDING  
FULL FUNDING OF STATE-FINANCED RENT SUPPLEMENT  
AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE FY 1983 AMENDMENTS

MR. TSONGAS. Mr. Chairman, I would like to state for the record my belief that the Appropriations Committee, at the initiation of Senator D'Amato, has taken a positive step with regard to the funding of noinsured, State-financed Section 236 projects which are assisted under the rent supplement and rental assistance payments programs. It is my understanding that the Committee has mandated HUD to fully fund in fiscal 1983 all necessary amendments to rent supplement and rental assistance payments contracts which have been made available in connection with State-financed Section 236 projects. I further understand that the Department will be required to fund each year 90 percent of the amendment amount required for each of these projects beginning in FY 1984. Although I believe the Committee has taken a necessary and a proper step in this regard, I would like to focus on my concern that OMB and HUD carry out the program by fully funding these necessary amendments as directed by the Congress upon the enactment of this legislation. It has been my experience in the past that OMB has strained to invent statutory ambiguities or uncertainty, so let there be no mistake, in this instance, that it is Congress' clear intention in this legislation that HUD, upon enactment of this measure, fully fund all outstanding amendments in fiscal year 1983 for these projects. Am I correct that this is the committee's intention and will be the Congress' clear intention on enactment of this legislation?

CHAIRMAN GARN. I very much appreciate the Senator's expression of support for the Committee's action in assuring full funding of this year's amendment requirements for these projects. The Senator is absolutely correct that it is our intention that HUD fully fund all outstanding amendments in FY 1983 upon enactment of this legislation and that we are firmly stating our resolve that this be done.

MR. D'AMATO. Will the Chairman yield?

CHAIRMAN GARN. Yes, I will yield to the Senator.

MR. D'AMATO. I fully appreciate and certainly concur with the remarks and concerns raised by my colleague from Massachusetts, Senator Tsongas. I reiterate my concern regarding this issue and completely endorse the comments of the Chairman and thank him for his assistance in seeing this matter equitably resolved.

CHAIRMAN GARN. I appreciate the Senator's comments. I believe that the committee and the congress are taking a positive step toward resolving this problem and urge the Department to honor and respect the clear intention of the Congress in this matter.

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