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STATE SUPPORT OF THE ARTS

HON. JOHN BRADEMAS
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 29, 1975

Mr. BRADEMAS. Mr. Speaker, the National Governors' Conference meeting in New Orleans, La., in June of this year, adopted a resolution recognizing the need for increased State support of the arts.

As we consider renewing Federal support of the arts this year, I think that we could all benefit from the thoughts of the National Governors' Conference. At this point, I would like to insert the resolution of the National Governors' Conference in the Record.

RESOLUTION OF NATIONAL GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE

The following resolution was adopted by the National Governors' Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, in June 1975. The resolution was introduced by Utah Governor Calvin L. Rampton.

ARTS AND CULTURE
The arts and a vital cultural atmosphere are directly responsible for creating a way of life which leads to human fulfillment and enables man to cope with the dynamics of change.

The improvement of the condition of the performing and visual arts calls for a concerted effort on the part of all Americans. Recent polls indicate not only that potential support of the arts by individual Americans is greater but also that a vast majority supports additional public funding for the arts.

The National Governors' Conference urges that the following principles be used as guidelines for state action:

1. State governments should recognize the arts as requirements for increasing the quality of life in America and work to provide all their citizens with additional artistic and cultural experiences.

2. States should be encouraged to pledge increased support to state arts agencies in their efforts to serve a greater number of people.

3. States should show their advocacy to excellence of art throughout the environment by supporting the preservation of historic buildings and encouraging zoning laws which will improve the total environment.

4. States should include a percentage of funds for the arts in the state arts council programs and in grants to local governments based upon these guidelines will lead the way to a national life that has more human fulfillment and more ordered grace.

TAINO TOWERS: A FEDERAL LANDMARK TO OUR NATION'S POOR

HON. LAWRENCE COUGHLIN OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 29, 1975

Mr. COUGHLIN. Mr. Speaker, it is certainly encouraging to see that our Federal Government has finally demonstrated its commitment to providing adequate housing for our Nation's poor.

In an article by Robert E. Tomasson published October 28 in The New York Times, the opening of the 656-unit Taino Towers housing project was announced.

This landmark to Federal bureaucratic wisdom includes such features as an indoor swimming pool, gymnasium, auditorium, theater, greenhouse, and other necessities. The most interesting feature of this $45 million Federal investment is the fact that in all probability poor families will be able to afford the rents. Because of the anticipated failure to earn $1.2 million per year from the Federal Government's federal subsidy, the door to Taino Towers will be kept closed to poor families, even with Federal subsidies.

I am sure that our Federal taxpayers, who are footing the $68,597 cost for each unit, will be heartened to see their needs again being neglected.

Mr. Speaker, I am submitting the text of Mr. Tomasson's article in the Record. I hope that this documented case of fiscal abuse and bureaucratic folly will result in positive remedial action.

The text of the article:

FOUR LUXURY TOWERS TO HOUSE THE POOR

By Robert E. Tomasson

A federally subsidized housing project for the poor is scheduled to open in East Harlem in about two months with luxury features never before included in low-income housing in the United States. Depending on the point of view, the project is regarded as a monument to ingenuity, compassion or an epitaph on bureaucratic folly.

The project is Taino Towers, four 25-story buildings with a total of 656 apartments on the block between 122nd and 123rd Streets and Second and Third Avenues. The centrally air-conditioned towers will have an indoor swimming pool, a cafeteria, a recreation room, a theater, a greenery, a full laundry room with attendant 24 hours a day.

The project, consisting of three-bedroom apartments with 11-foot-high ceilings and 20-foot-long balconies, will be rented for low rents. The minimum rent for the six-bedroom units will be $60,507, by far the highest ever in this country for low-income housing.

Federal officials believe that the project, which represents the largest single location for a community project ever made by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, is a benefit to the project— which are not likely to be matched for many years. If at all. In low-income housing—have evoked strong criticism from city and state housing officials, including some with the H.U.D. itself.

NONRESIDENTIAL SPACE

The principal criticism is that of the large amount of nonresidential space, each building the first six floors—a total of 265,000 square feet, or the equivalent of about five and one-half floors of the PanAm Building—were constructed for nonresidential use.

This space houses some of the amenities, such as an education center, which is intended for agencies that would provide educational and medical services to the community while paying rent that would be used to keep apartment rents low.

But commercial tenants have not turned up, with the elaborate financing of Taino Towers in doubt.

"They got everything they wanted and now they don't know what to do with it," said an official in the local H.U.D. office, referring to the community sponsor, the East Harlem Tenants Council.

S. William Green, regional administrator of the Federal Agency, said that because of the unprecedented inclusion of nonresidential space in a federally subsidized housing project, final approval had been given in Washington.

The State's Urban Development Corporation and the city's Housing and Development Administration had considered financing the project, but pulled out when the group insisted on including the nonresidential space.

THE MAN BEHIND IT

The guiding force behind the project is Robert Nicol, a 40-year-old Presbyterian minister who left an East Harlem church to become the full-time $17,000-a-year project administrator. He offers no apologies for insisting on the nonresidential space.

"You don't predicate providing basic human services for people on a possible future collapse in the market," he said. "It's a question of whether we have a viable city or building slum.

"I know we have been accused of overdesigning for the poor, but we are concerned with changing people's lives, not just creating another future slum."

"Look there," Mr. Nicol said as he stood on the roof of one of the towers, gesturing toward the building. "From 21st to 24th Street, this is the horizon. It's the home of a whole corridor of businesses, that one building has brought a tremendous concentration of the poor, which is a problem by definition."

THE TWO WHO PULLED IT

Two major tenants that Mr. Nicol expected in the project have decided not to rent space there: the Health Insurance Plan and the