Duffey, Joseph: Humanities Chairman Nomination Hearing (September 9, 1977): Report 01
New England does not have a Tennessee or Columbia River to develop, but, according to the Federal Power Commission, less than one-third of its potential hydroelectric potential has been developed. In addition, technologies for harnessing the power of the Sun, tides, and wind are now being developed. All of these are potentially major sources of clean power for New England.

Apart from the public development of new energy sources, a New England Regional Power Authority would free the region from dependence on private corporations for their investment. With the skyrocketing cost of private capital the savings to regional consumers and businesses is significant.

The New England States themselves have shown a renewed interest in public power. An initiative petition to create a Massachusetts Power Authority will appear on the 1976 ballot. And a renewed effort is underway for a Maine Power Authority.

From an engineering and economic standpoint, it makes far more sense to hope that the Congress is underway for a Maine Power Authority. An initiative petition in New York is underway for a New York State Power Authority. A resolution recognizing the importance of this year, I think that the Congress will be able to give consideration to the need for the establishment of a single integrated publicly owned agency to provide for New England's future power needs.

STATE SUPPORT OF THE ARTS

HON. JOHN BRADEMANS
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 1975

Mr. BRADEMANS. 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 on 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 1976. 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 of 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 experience.

2. States should be encouraged to pledge increased support to state arts agencies in their efforts to achieve this goal.

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 culture in the arts for works of art to be carefully integrated into the design of those buildings.

5. The Governors of the States and Federal 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 in improving the lives of the disadvantaged is the fact that in all probability poor families will be unable to afford the rents. Because of the anticipated failure to earn $1.2 million per year from the project, the Federal Government will subsidize the rents for government families.

I am sure that our Federal taxpayers, who are footing the $68,597 cost for each unit, will be heartened to see their tax dollars wisely spent. The many who are in dire need of adequate housing at an affordable cost should also take great comfort to see their needs again neglected.

Mr. Speaker, I am submitting the text of Mr. Tomasson's article in the Record. It is hoped that this successful 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

(Toby Bobert 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 compassion or an epitaph on bureaucratic folly.

The project is Taino Towers, four 35-story buildings with a total of 656 apartments on the block between 122d and 123d Streets and Second and Third Avenues. The centrally air-conditioned towers will have an indoor pool, a gymnasium, a theater, a greenhouse, and laundry parking with attendants 24 hours a day. The open spaces will have 440 simulated apartments with 11-foot-high ceilings and 20-foot-long balconies.

The minimum rent for the six-bedroom apartments is $97,000 a year. A single or the poor, which are not likely to be matched for many years. If all Federal subsidy plans committed for 40 years.

The average construction cost per apartment is $69,597, by far the largest ever in this country for low-income housing. Federal officials are sure that the type of development represents the largest single location for a community project ever made by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The basic features of the project—which are not likely to be matched for many years. If all Federal subsidy plans committed for 40 years.-

NONSUBRENTIAL SPACE

The principal criticism is of the large amount of nonresidential space in 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 in New York were constructed for nonresidential use.

This space houses some of the amenities, but there are large areas 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 down 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 nonresidential space, 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 led 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 and 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 just another future slum.

"I know we have been accused of over-designing for the poor, but we are concerned with improving people's living, 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 slums. "From First to 14th, a whole corridor of public housing built in the nineteen-sixties. It's an evil sight. All kinds of businesses and brought a tremendous concentration of the poor, which is a problem by definition."

Two Who Pulled Out

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