

February 15, 1935

MEMORANDUM TO Mr. Oliphant SUBJECT: Housing Subsidy
FROM Governor Eccles

In accordance with our telephone conversa-
tion this afternoon on the housing subsidy, I am
sending to you a copy of a memorandum on this subject
that I have received from one of the men in this
office. You may wish to discuss the matter that it
refers to with someone on the Senate Appropriations
Committee.

JMD/mm



February 15, 1935

MEMORANDUM ON HOUSING SUBSIDY

The proposed Emergency Relief Act of 1935 (H.J.Res.117), in the form in which it passed the House of Representatives, would enable the President to subsidize home-building or other private construction. The President would be unable to do this, however, if the resolution is passed in the amended form now proposed by the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Section 1 of the joint resolution, as it passed the House, appropriates funds to be used, among other things, for "providing relief from . . . unemployment" and for "improving living . . . conditions." The funds are "to be used in the discretion and under the direction of the President in such manner, and for such purposes and/or such projects, federal or non-federal, as shall be adapted to the accomplishment of one or more of the objectives specified" in the joint resolution.

The authority of the President "to make grants" would be stricken out of the resolution, if the recommendation of the Senate Committee prevails. Furthermore, the Senate Committee proposes to amend section 1 by limiting the projects for which the President may use the funds appropriated to "a type such as is or may be authorized by law."

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