

SOUTHWARD INN
ORLEANS. CAPE COD

August 30, 1937

Dear Marriner:

Having been away from Washington since last Wednesday, and down here since Friday, I do not know what may have developed meanwhile with regard to the new housing agency.

However, I have heard that pressure of a more or less irresistible character was exerted last week in behalf of Nathan Strauss, and that the President had reluctantly consented to yield.

The story as I heard it was that Mr. Farley and Senator Wagner were separately urging the appointment of Strauss. It appears that Strauss has been a liberal supporter of the Administration in more ways than one and that this is ~~the~~ one thing he has set his heart on and the only favor he has ever asked.

As far as I can judge from what I have seen in the newspapers here, the bill has not yet been signed. By the time you receive this note, though, you may have read of the appointment.

SOUTHWARD INN
ORLEANS. CAPE COD

2.

If the report that I had proves to be the right one, the result, I am inclined to believe, will be that the new agency will have hard going for some months. I say this not only because of my own observation of Strauss, but more particularly because the New York point of view on housing is precisely what in my opinion most needs to be avoided in order to assure a good national result.

The New York situation is altogether different from that of any other city in the country, and the approach of the New York housing people toward the problems of land acquisition, types of construction, labor questions, and other cost factors departs widely from a practicable approach for the country as a whole. I think it will be unfortunate if a field of governmental operation that has already had many difficulties should be further complicated at the very time when a quiet readjustment might have been effected.

I am down here only for a long week-end. I expect to be back in Washington in a few days. My best wishes and sincere thanks to you, as always.

Max Lurie