

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF NEW YORK

May 28, 1975

FAIR HOUSING SURVEY

To All State Member Banks
in the Second Federal Reserve District:

The following statement was issued May 6 by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System:

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System today made available for public inspection data collected in connection with a pilot survey on possible housing discrimination.

The purpose of the survey was to attempt to determine if discrimination against minorities occurs in the granting of credit for home improvements and home mortgages, and, if so, whether this type of survey could identify and measure it. Such discrimination is forbidden by the 1968 Civil Rights Act.

The data are based on a Fair Housing Survey conducted in six metropolitan areas from June 1 through November 30, 1974, by the Federal Reserve, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Comptroller of the Currency, and the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, using a questionnaire developed by the Federal Reserve and the FDIC.

The six metropolitan areas covered by the Federal Reserve-Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation survey were Baltimore, Jersey City, Tampa-St. Petersburg, Galveston-Texas City, Jackson, Mississippi and Vallejo-Fairfield-Napa in California.

Eighteen metropolitan areas were surveyed in all. The Comptroller of the Currency and the Federal Home Loan Bank Board collected somewhat different data for the other twelve metropolitan areas surveyed.

The survey did not yield definitive evidence with respect to whether discrimination occurs in residential lending. The usefulness of the data was lessened by the low level of mortgage activity during the period of the survey.

The data are available for inspection at the Board's offices (Room 1118), at the Federal Reserve Banks, and at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation offices in Washington.

The data may be inspected at this Bank upon request directed to our Bank Regulations Department.

ALFRED HAYES,
President.