

'Attempt To Mislead'

The new additions to the housing code of Cincinnati are nothing more than just another attempt on the part of City Council and the Building Department to mislead the citizens of this community. And the most pathetic aspect of the entire situation is that many people hailed this as a great step forward in housing. This is definitely not so!

Housing in Cincinnati is in such bad condition that it requires more—much more—than additional weak ordinances. What is vitally needed is a cutoff date for compliance on orders from the Building Department; court action on violations; a more efficient Building Department with additional inspectors and protection of the rights of tenants. Tenants are presently being evicted because they complain of housing and health conditions to the proper agencies. Most tenants realize and accept their responsibility but they must have recourse when the responsibilities of the landlord, or siumlord, aren't met.

Rats are biting children, roaches and other insects infest apartment buildings and private dwellings, children fall through rotten staircases, hallways are ill-lighted, fire hazards mount continually. There are ordinances covering all of these and many more defects, but the enforcement and compliance is lacking. And there is not a great deal of concern because poor people—people on welfare and ADC—mostly inhabit these dwellings.

Why must city officials, ignoring the obvious, wait until there is chaos or tragedy before any positive, concrete action is

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taken? Do what is necessary today and the regrets and sorrows of tomorrow can be averted. Pressure will continue to be applied and increased until there is action taken to improve the deplorable housing conditions in Cincinnati. There must be a change!

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