

A Joint Statement on behalf of the
Detroit Branch NAACP by
Edward M. Turner, President; and
Arthur L. Johnson, Executive
Secretary, on the question of the
Brickley Proposal, September 25, 1962.

The Brickley Proposal deals with a very limited problem in the field of housing - block-busting. It does not touch the basic and wide-ranging practices of racial discrimination in the housing market. It is not concerned with the burden of inequality, substandard housing and high, discriminatory costs carried by Negro citizens. Indeed, as the author of the proposal states, it has no interest at all in the goal of achieving housing integration.

The Brickley Proposal does speak with vigor against the reprehensible practices of some real estate agents which incite "neighborhood unrest, community tension and fear of racial, religious or nationality change among property owners in certain neighborhoods...." For this, it must be appreciated as both timely and valuable.

But the Brickley Proposal, in our considered judgement, is neither sound nor safe standing alone. It must be properly ungirded with effective restraints against racial discrimination in the sale and rental of housing in Detroit. For after all, it is really race discrimination and segregation which give rise to the problems of fear, tension, unrest, and block-busting in the housing market. For the over-all good of the community, the basic problem must be reached, or we continue merely to delude ourselves with false images and false solutions.

The NAACP, as any other responsible, right-thinking organization, will have no alternative except to give wholehearted support to legislation which treats, first the real problem of racial discrimination, as well as block-busting in the housing field.