

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR RALPH M. PAIEWONSKY
AT DEDICATION CEREMONIES OF ADDITION TO MARLEY HOMES
FREDERIKSTED, ST. CROIX

March 22, 1968
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Reverend Clergy, Mr. Febres-Silva, Senator James, Mr. Roebuck, Ladies
and Gentlemen:

This administration is dedicated to providing for the maximum health,
education and general welfare of the people of the Virgin Islands. Under this
program, a prime consideration is housing. For this reason, it always gives
me a personal feeling of satisfaction to join with you in a ceremony such as
we are holding today.

When a family enjoys adequate housing, the father is a better parent
and worker, the mother is a better guardian of her children, and the children
themselves provide better prospects for growing up to become law-abiding,
productive citizens.

We are attacking the housing problem in the islands on many fronts.
Our task force in this effort is under the capable command of Mr. Elmo Roebuck,
Commissioner of Housing and Community Renewal, and Mr. Neville Thomas,
Executive Director of the Housing Authority. Their record of performance
shows a resourceful, energetic approach to this our Number One problem in
the Virgin Islands.

We have made more housing starts within the past year than ever
before. And this year we plan to begin construction of more than 500 new
apartment dwellings under the federally sponsored middle income housing

program. This does not include the many other projects being advanced without Federal aid.

Here in St. Croix, we will add 123 new apartment dwellings in Christiansted and 60 at Lagoon Street in Frederiksted. Over in St. Thomas, projects at Estate Contant will provide an additional 200, while the Warren A. Brown Apartments, formerly known as Bluebeard Hill Apartments, will yield 160 more such dwellings.

We are working earnestly to cultivate the participation of private developers in our locally sponsored low cost housing program under which 800 homes will be erected this year in St. Croix at Estate Concordia, Estate Williams Delight and Estate Mon Bijou.

These homes can be purchased by qualified persons under a convenient financing plan we have arranged with local banks.

Housing is interwoven with many other of our problems in the islands in a complicated fashion which tests the patience and the ingenuity of your Government.

We are, for instance, constantly recruiting teachers and others with professional skills sorely needed here, but then comes the question: "Where can we house them?"

To help find the answer, we plan to make provisions in the new apartment buildings I have referred to so that teachers and others who come here to contribute to our cultural and economic progress will get special consideration.

We must, of course, continue meanwhile to accommodate the aged

and the needy as well as the citizen who needs shelter for himself and his family.

These are some of the reasons why I have repeatedly referred to housing as the Number One problem of the Islands, and why my office and the Legislature have devoted so much time to its solution. We are engaged in a campaign to provide adequate housing for every resident of the Virgin Islands.

I have advised the Legislature that I am preparing to ask once again for provision in our capital budget for more local home construction to keep pace with the demand which keeps rising as more people come here to live and as our local population continues to increase.

This expansion to Marley Homes adds 60 more units to the 34 previously in existence. They range in size from one bedroom to five bedrooms. Tenants are being carefully selected so that families whose need is greatest will benefit from the new facilities that are being opened up here.

I am gratified that the accommodations include eight one-bedroom units for the elderly. I have repeatedly said that we in the Virgin Islands are pledged to take care of our senior citizens, and we are fulfilling that pledge through programs such as this, through the facilities and staff of our homes for the aged, and through the services of our Health Department and Social Welfare Department.

To you present residents of Marley Homes, I wish continued happiness as you ~~relax~~ in the comfort and friendly surroundings of your apartments, and as your children grow healthy and strong under the sun in the playground provided for them.

I know you will offer a Virgin Islands welcome to the new neighbors who are about to occupy this beautiful new addition.

To the prospective new neighbors who are here, I wish a full and satisfying life in your new home.

Thank you all for coming out to be with us on this happy occasion.

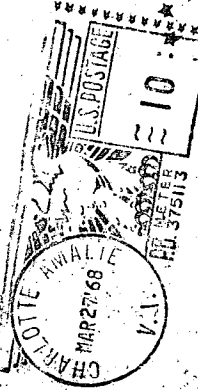
God bless you.

Office of Public Relations and Information

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHARLOTTE AMALIE

ST. THOMAS, V. I., U.S.A.



**VIA AIR MAIL
CORREO AEREO
PAR AVION**



Mr. Harry C. McPherson, Jr.
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