

Housing Crisis Still On, Mayor Tells Veterans

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Mar 17, 1952;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times

pg. B1

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A low-rent housing emergency still exists in Los Angeles, Mayor Bowron told an assemblage of 2800 listeners at Rodger Young Village yesterday.

Residents of the city-operated quonset hut community held the mass rally in protest to threatened abandonment of the project. Other speakers included City Councilmen L. E. Timberlake, John Holland and Ed Roybal; Msgr. Thomas P. O'Dwyer, president of the Citizens Housing Council, and Gene Mathias of the United Jewish War Veterans.

They urged the 1600 families to join in a militant fight to prevent their eviction from the village and cited the need for additional facilities within the means of low-income veterans' families.

Assured of Steps

Bowron assured the villagers that steps have already been taken to forestall closure of Rodger Young. Said he:

"I prevented your eviction from Rodger Young Village.

"I convinced the Park and Recreation Department that they were wrong in saying a housing emergency no longer exists."

The Park Department, which administers the Griffith Park property on which the project is situated, has refused to extend to the city a two-year extension of the Veterans Emergency Housing lease. Under the law, Bowron explained, the city may not use park land for housing except in emergency.

Urged to Tell Case

He advised the villagers to present their case at a public hearing before the City Council one week from today. The Council must declare an emergency, he said, and it cannot do so without substantial evidence from the affected families.

Representatives of labor, veteran and church groups also addressed the gathering. All speakers agreed that to close the village would cause untold hardship on families living there. They pledged the backing of their organizations in the battle to maintain the project.