

Citation: Housing Authority of the City of Seattle to City Council, March 4, 1941. CF 169237. Comptroller Files, 1801-02, Seattle Municipal Archives.

G. W. COPLIN CHAIRMAN	MRS. F. D. HENDERSON VICE-CHAIRMAN	KENNETH J. MORFORD	CHARLES W. DOYLE
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE			
TELEPHONE MAIN 7885	250 Central Building SEATTLE, WASHINGTON	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESSE EPSTEIN	
March 4, 1941			
The City Council City of Seattle County-City Building Seattle, Washington			
Dear Madam and Gentlemen:			
<p>In our comprehensive survey of housing conditions in the City of Seattle, we included a special study of shacks and at this time wish to submit to you for your information and possible action our findings and recommendations.</p>			
<p>We are interested in the "shack" problem even though our own statutory powers are not broad enough to deal with it directly. If shacks continue to remain or their number grow, it is quite possible, in the light of general conditions, that many families will seek to occupy them. Then we would become directly concerned, as would you, in the accompanying threat to good housing, and in the consequent hazards to health and safety. We deem our work to be preventive as well as corrective. *</p>			
<p>We do not, however, suggest the immediate or wholesale elimination of shacks, but rather a less disruptive, more orderly and planned method. Specifically, we wish to make the following recommendations:</p>			
<p>(1) That none of the present occupants of shacks be forced to vacate at the present time.</p>			
<p>(2) That as soon, however, as any shack is no longer inhabited by its present occupants, the proper departments of the City be authorized and directed to demolish it.</p>			
<p>(3) That the proper departments of the City be authorized and directed to demolish immediately all presently vacant shacks.</p>			
<p>(4) That these departments be authorized and directed to prevent the building of any additional shacks in the City of Seattle.</p>			
<p>(5) That notices of these intentions of the City be given to all occupants of shacks and public notices posted in concentrated and other shack areas.</p>			
*Section 8, Housing Authorities Law, State of Washington.			

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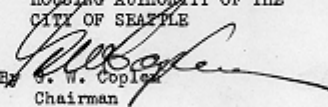
(It is not the intention of the Housing Authority of the City of Seattle to seek credit (under the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended) for any elimination of shacks made pursuant to the above recommendations.)

We have defined a shack as "a dwelling unit of more or less temporary character, constructed without benefit of formal design or plan, of secondhand, nondescript building materials, and located indiscriminately." (In most instances, shacks violate legal building requirements.)

A total of 1687 shacks was found in the city. We are attaching hereto Exhibit A, showing on a map the distribution of these shacks; Exhibit B, tabulating by Census Enumeration Districts their location and number; and Exhibit C, giving basic data concerning their physical condition and occupancy.

We shall be glad to cooperate in any way we can to the end that Seattle may become a city without shacks.

Sincerely yours,
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE
CITY OF SEATTLE


By G. W. Copley
Chairman

JE:AP