

THE CRUSADER

DID YOU KNOW?.....By Asa Lee

Appearing in the December 14, issue of one of the local accepted publications was another Negro bedtime story on urban renewal. Someone, evidently believes that all Negroes are nearsighted, and maybe that someone is right, judging from the actions of some of the Negro would be elite crowd, in the past.

Now it appears, (according to the local accepted press) that the Negroes' homes are not going to be bulldozed, you can fix up your old shacks, and "only those below standard properties where the owner can not or will not act to improve them will be acquired by the city".

Now to me there lies the problem; supposing some old persons who have worked all their lives acquiring a little home, who are too old to work and with no income, (The Welfare Agency does not issue checks to Negro home owners) no savings, their only help is from the Christian charity of neighbors and friends. If these old people are unable to repair their homes to meet the housing standard, where can they secure a loan at their age. What will then happen to these old people?

According to the local accepted press, their homes will be acquired by the city. Now the dictionary says, acquire means "to gain by any means, to get as one's own". Then it is reasonable to say the city of Monroe will bulldoze these old people's homes, and take them by any means. We mustn't forget that some of these same old Negro people, nursed some of these same city officials when they were children. These old Negroes have trusted some of

these city officials wholeheartedly. If the officials are successful, these old people will be thrown into the streets. The question is, why?

Maybe we've been wrong about the motives of our city officials, maybe they are going to raise the old Negro people's homes up to the housing standard and let them live in them rent free, plus, an adequate check each month. Let the resources of the rich, help raise the standard of the poor, sort of thing. The local accepted press further stated that the Negroes were "under the impression that title to a large area would be taken by the city and buildings leveled". Now says the local accepted press, that's not true, they are not going to just bulldoze N. E. Monroe, but the entire city of Monroe will be involved in the rehabilitation program.

Well now, the plot is thickening! Most houses in the entire city that are not up to the housing standard, are homes of Negroes because Negroes in Monroe are barred from jobs that pay more than starvation wages. So they are unable to maintain modern comfortable homes. It seems to me there are a great number of homes about to swap hands. We are perplexed, but not in despair, cast down, but not destroyed. The answer to the question, What can we do? is this: We need vigorous action on the part of the Negro people and unless we ban together, and stand up and fight, it will be too late!

"...I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?"

Nehemiah 5:3