

4,000 TO GIVE DATA ON BETTER HOUSING

**President's Conference on Home
Building and Ownership
Will Open Wednesday.**

STUDY UNDER WAY A YEAR

**Committees in Every Branch
Have Studied Ways to Help
the Small Wage-Earner.**

MASS PRODUCTION ADVISED

**Means of Supplementing President's
Discount Plan to Revive
Industry Is Sought.**

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—With the twofold purpose of finding and assimilating methods for giving more order and direction to the development of the American home, and assisting to revive an industry which is now running at 30 per cent of its normal \$2,000,000,000 annual output, 4,000 men and women will gather here on Wednesday for the President's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership, an organization set in motion more than a year ago by President Hoover.

In the group will be bankers, builders, housing experts, building loan executives, realtors, city planners, manufacturers, sociologists, engineers, architects, home economists, decorators and artisans, representing every State in the Union.

They propose to make it possible for people of small incomes to provide for themselves at low cost substantial housing with adequate light, ventilation, pure water, toilet facilities, space and privacy.

The conference is already credited with one success. Its finance committee played a major part in developing the plan for the Home Loan Discount Bank, proposed by President Hoover a fortnight ago.

553 Gather Data for Months.

The President chose Secretaries Lamont and Wilbur as joint chairmen of the conference. Dr. John M. Gries, former chief of the Division of Building and Housing of the Department of Commerce, is executive secretary.

Besides these, 553 men and women of national standing in practically every branch of activity that concerns home building and home ownership have been working voluntarily for months assembling facts on every angle of the problem.

They have made surveys of what already has been done and have added researches to these to determine future courses. Their findings and recommendations will be submitted through thirty-one committees.

Mr. Hoover will appear at the opening general session at Constitution Hall Wednesday night. After that meeting the delegates will settle down to committee work in various meeting places. There will be committees on city planning and zoning, types of dwellings, fundamental equipment, design, housing and the community, subdivision layout, kitchen and other work centres, large-scale operations, construction, Negro housing, blighted areas and slums, household management, taxation, reconditioning, remodeling and modernization, relationship of income to the home, utilities for houses, home furnishing and decoration, industrial decentralization and housing, landscape planning and planting, finance, farm and village housing, business and housing, homemaking, home ownership and leasing, home information service and six on correlation of the information submitted to the conference.

Financing to Be First Problem.

The conference has the honor of being the first to move into the mammoth new Department of Commerce Building. It has an entire floor, with more than 100 offices as temporary quarters to be used until after the session next week.

It was indicated today at the conference headquarters that financing will be the first problem tackled by the central organization. While backing the President on his home loan discount plan to the limit, conference leaders believe that the additional credit made available by this program will not suffice to enable a family living on \$2,000 a year to undertake the purchase of a home meeting certain essential requirements of light, space, ventilation and plumbing.

A committee of architects, builders and material men has been gathering from the experience of practical builders information on building practices and materials that have proved most efficient and economical.

Another committee, composed of heating, lighting, plumbing and refrigeration men, has been studying types and costs of fundamental equipment.

Mass Production to Be Advised.

Advice on fighting depreciation will be formulated by still another committee, and a committee on city planning and zoning, headed by Frederic A. Delano, chairman of the regional plan of New York and its environs, will recommend steps to insure the stability of value of American homes.

Taxation will be taken up by a committee headed by Professor Thomas S. Adams of Yale University, who has been adviser on taxation to the Treasury Department since 1917.

It was the thought of President Hoover when he constituted the conference, that some new principle of construction might have to be evolved to meet the financial ability of the people whose incomes are from \$1,500 to \$3,000 a year. He has

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maintained that people with such incomes should have homes of their own, as a step toward a more substantial citizenship.

Consequently the planning committee constituted a committee on large scale operations, which has come to the conclusion that mass production must be applied more widely if the ideal of better homes for the small salaried and wage-earning classes is to be realized.

The committee, headed by Alfred K. Stern, director of the Julius Rosenwald fund, has made a study of great developments such as Sunnyside Gardens in Long Island City and the Michigan Boulevard Garden apartments in Chicago, and is prepared to recommend wider use of this type of construction.

A committee of architects, headed by William Stanley Parker, will report that it believes more comfortable, better built and better looking homes can be constructed for less than at present. Their proposals will include elimination of expensive "fake" gables, and chimneys without fireplaces, and advise group building to make better use of ground areas.

A committee on home furnishing and decoration, headed by Miss Ruth Lyle Sparkers, president of the Interior Decorators' Club of New York, will present exhibits on improvement of interiors at lower costs.

Three other women's groups are among the thirty-one committees; the committee on kitchens and other work centres has studied 140 kitchens of Chicago families with incomes of \$2,000 or less, to determine what activities are carried on in kitchens of this class. It has determined what equipment is necessary, how it should be arranged to reduce labor, and how to have it manufactured inexpensively. Committees on homemaking and household management, composed of women, have also made actual studies.

A committee on industrial decentralization and housing, led by Stuart W. Cramer of the Cramerton Cotton Mills of North Carolina, and another on business and housing, under Harry A. Wheeler of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, will report a joint conclusion condemning congestion of population as not only socially undesirable but exceedingly expensive to industry.

The correlating committees will present all this material for formulation of a definite policy and program, that if adopted might end the era of hit-or-miss growth of American homes and home neighborhoods.

This is the long-range purpose, but leaders are also looking to the conference to aid in the present economic crisis by stimulating private construction.