

DEDICATION OF PENN STATION SOUTH

(May, 1962)

We are here today to dedicate the ILGWU Cooperative Houses. This community conceived in 1957, will provide homes for 2,820 families. Together, this group raised \$7,337,000 in equity and by cooperating, made this dream a reality.

It is indeed a privilege and a great pleasure for me to welcome the cooperators to their new homes.

We believe that this cooperative housing development will prove to be an asset to the immediate community and to the city of New York. We are sure that it will justify the assistance it received from the government agencies. It is our hope that these homes will bring social and economic benefits, as well as enjoyment, to the families of the tenant-owners.

The significance of what has been accomplished, however, must not be measured by the size of the development, by the \$40,000,000 that was required to build it, by the number of apartment dwellings it provided, or even by the slum buildings it destroyed. The significance of the accomplishment is that a group of 2,820 families has ventured to adopt the method of self-help, self-reliance, and work together for the common good...

We are extremely proud that the President of the United States has honored us by coming here today to dedicate this cooperative development. On behalf of all the member-cooperators, I wish to express to him our appreciation and deep gratitude.

What has been accomplished here by 2,820 families can be duplicated in other areas where the need for better housing is acute. As we celebrate the completion of this cooperative enterprise, we cannot be unmindful that thousands of families are still ill-housed; that the need for better housing in this community, as well as in most other urban centers, is great. As we celebrate the rebuilding of this area, we must dedicate ourselves to continue the program of providing decent housing for all. We must continue the fight to eliminate the blighted areas here and elsewhere.

We must learn to do this work more expeditiously than it has been done in the past. The need for housing is desperate, especially for families with children. They cannot wait five or six years—or more, for decent places to raise their families. With all the tools presently at our command, we should be able to build at a more rapid pace and provide housing at rentals to accommodate all those in need of shelter. The United Housing Foundation is dedicated to such a program and is ready to do its share.