**Citizens decry housing stalemate**

(continued from page 1)

Councilman Velizzi then stated that he was tired of all this "lacy talk." To the routing appeal from the "hay" people from East Cambridge, he cried, "Let's get on the ball!"

**CRA controversy**

The focus of attention then shifted back to the Redevelopment Authority as another representative of the Housing Convention charged that the CRA was neglecting the noisy citizens in favor of the high-income employees of NASA and MIT. He alleged that the CRA actually represented the university community since all five of its members were Harvard graduates. He then asked the Council to consider a resolution to fill the three upcoming vacancies on the CRA with one black citizen, one residential victim of urban renewal, and one low-income East Cambridge resident to be appointed by Governor Pagey.

In the ensuing debate, Councilman Daniel Hayes declared that the citizens ought to focus their complaints against the City Council, not against the CRA. He further asserted that the city's housing programs have taken as long as six years without any finished results because of governmental red tape. He charged that federal programs actually lead people astray since they are not adequately funded. The Hayes stressed the need for widespread community support in order to house building, and he stated what is probably the major overall obstacle to progress. "Everyone wants low-cost housing, but not in their back yard." Councilwoman Cornelia Wheeler similarly stated that the CRA was under the influence of the City Council and opposed the proposed resolution on the basis that the present group offered continuity of expertise. Councilwoman Ackermann, on the other hand, supported the resolution, insisting that low-income residents should become involved in redevelopment plans.

One of the dramatic highlights of the evening was several Councilmen insisted that they should not vote on the CRA resolution that month. They charged that the appointments were not scheduled to be debated until next week's meeting. Velizzi insisted that the vote should be taken, since the issues had been fully discussed that night. When Councilwoman Wheeler declared that the CRA's vote must not be dictated "by outside interests," she was quickly shouted down by determined and militant citizens in the gallery who retorted, "We put you there!"

When the CRA appointments resolution was finally voted on, it was defeated by a 5-3 vote, with only Councilmen Ackermann, Deheny, and Velizzi supporting the Housing Convention resolution. After the vote, Velizzi took to palavering his defeated constituents as he shouted, "Bring it on!"

The subject of the NASA Research Center was brought up several times during the evening. Velizzi asked why it took only six months to pull through the NASA project when it has already taken more than six years for the Wellesley-Harrington project. Mahoney, in reproaching the CRA (from blame, regretted that the NASA center was not only vital for our nation's defense, but also a factor in lowering the city's tax rate.

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