Conference on the Landlord-Tenant Relationship

Readers of the Record may recall references in earlier issues to the Conference on Consumer Credit and the Poor, which was held in the Autumn Quarter, 1965. That Conference was planned and administered entirely by law students. It set so successful a precedent that again this year there will be a student-run conference. The topic chosen is the landlord-tenant relationship. In explanation of the need for, and purpose of, the conference, the student planning committee has written:

"Recent efforts to improve the conditions of urban life have made it apparent that the shortage of decent housing for families of low and moderate income presents one of the most pressing problems facing the urban poor. While basically this is an economic problem, the importance of the legal relationship between landlord and tenant cannot be ignored. Although extension of legal services to the poor has brought the promise that tenants' rights can be effectively enforced, it has become clear that often inadequate attention has been given to the substantive law affecting indigent persons. The law of landlord-tenant, developed in a different context to meet different social goals, has in many instances proven unsuited for the needs of modern urban society. If 'equal justice under law' is to become a reality for the urban poor, there must be development and change in the substantive law governing the landlord-tenant relationship.

Modeled on last year's successful Conference on Consumer Credit and the Poor, this Conference will discuss the legal relationship between landlord and tenant, noting particularly those changes which promise to alter our traditional view of that relationship. The Conference is intended for those who have a working interest in the law affecting urban housing. Discussion will center on the efforts by government and the tenants themselves to find solutions to the shortcomings of the present relationship. Hopefully, the Conference will provide a forum in which both landlords and those providing legal aid for the indigent can express their views and work toward solutions."

The general theme of the opening session, at which papers will be presented, will be "New Approaches to Changing the Landlord-Tenant Relationship." The speakers and their topics will be:

**TENANT UNIONS**
Gilbert Cornfield, Kleiman, Cornfield and Feldman; Chicago

**PUBLIC HOUSING**
Nancy E. LeBlanc, Assistant Director, Legal Services Unit, Mobilization for Youth; New York

Commentators will include:

Gary Bellow, Deputy Director, California Rural Legal Assistance
John E. Coons, Professor of Law, Northwestern University; Chicago

Two Workshop Sessions will also be featured. The first, on the general topic of "Tenant Initiated Remedies," will focus on issues raised in the following papers:

**THE COMMON LAW BACKGROUND**, by Geoffrey A. Braun
**RENT WITHHOLDING**, by Edward H. Flitton

The topic of the Second Workshop is "Governmental and Institutional Entry into the Field." The working papers will be:

**REMEDIES THROUGH PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS**, by Arthur W. Friedman
**RECEIVERSHIPS**, by Charles M. Pratt

All Workshop papers are being prepared by law students, who will also lead the Workshop discussions. The papers will be sent out to Conference registrants in advance, so that all participating will have had an opportunity to read them before the Conference, which will be held on November 17-18.

The student executive committee engaged in planning the Conference is made up of Bernardine R. Dohrn, Philip N. Harlutzel, Philip W. Moore, and Frank E. Wood. Further details and registration blanks may be secured from the Law School, 1111 East 60th Street, Chicago 60637.