

## Proposals on Housing

[1966]

A major expense for slum dwellers is heat. Buying coal and wood for stoves and fireplaces costs \$8 to \$14 a week. Gas heat for the same apartment would cost \$4 a week in very cold weather. The problem is that the gas company requires a \$20 deposit before they will turn on the gas. Since none of the people can pay this they are forced to pay 2 or 3 times as much for heat.

The situation with electricity is similar. Almost all of the apartments have electricity. It just isn't turned on. A \$25 deposit is required before it will be turned on so many families use kerosene lamps because they can not afford the deposit.

We should demand that utilities be turned on without making a deposit.

Joe Shaffer charges a 25% interest on loans to tenants which must be repaid within one month. If there is not already a law against this we should push for one limiting interest rates.

Rats are another major problem they destroy large amounts of food and clothing. We should demand control of rodents by the city government. It is a problem which can not be controlled just by landlords.