

nsors Rural Housing Bill

APR 13 1977

sidy programs. "This will make more conventional mortgage money available in areas like our Southern Tier," Lundine said. "The average income here is below the New York State median income. It would enable elderly homeowners to repair and weatherize their homes."

The Southern Tier congressman also said the program would provide increased rental opportunities to the elderly by directing FmHA to implement its existing but unused rural rent supplement program. He added that in many com-

munities where projects for elderly housing have been placed in motion, they haven't been approved because of a lack of funds. "I have identified in the past one of the 39th District's most pressing needs as that of housing for the elderly," Lundine noted. "Though this act would not guarantee new housing for us specifically, it would open new opportunities."

Lundine pledged to be an advocate for a very aggressive rural housing program in the 95th Congress. "It is equally important," he added, "that this new Ad-

ministration recognizes the need for our nation to make significant improvements in the way rural housing is treated over its treatment during the previous administration — the 'Butz' years."

"These changes," Lundine continued, "are vital to rural America where 1.9 million families live without adequate plumbing; another 1.4 million without kitchens; 3.9 million who have no roofing insulation, and the staggering 7.8 million families in rural America whose homes have no storm windows."