

# Lundine Bill Would Aid Housing For Seniors

Rep. Stanley N. Lundine introduced legislation on Monday that would extend for three years the government's authority to provide low-cost loans to non-profit sponsors for the development of housing for the elderly.

Lundine called the extension "necessary to demonstrate the federal commitment to housing for the elderly and the handicapped."

"Without an assurance of program continuity, we cannot expect non-profit organizations to become involved in a lengthy and complex planning process," the Jamestown Democrat said.

The Carter administration has proposed a one-year extension of the housing program, resulting in a reduction in the number of housing units.

Noting an increase in demand for senior citizen housing, Lundine said, "We cannot tolerate any decline in the number of housing units when it is clear that there are increasing demands."

The elderly population, Lundine said, is expanding in absolute numbers and as a proportion of the entire nation. Longer life expectancies and declining birth rates have resulted in almost 23 million people over 65 years of age, representing 11 percent of the population. By the year 2000, Lundine noted, that figure will grow to 30

million, or about 12.5 percent of the population. **MAR 28 1979**

The proportion of senior citizens is higher than the national average in the Southern Tier, the congressman said, and has been served by construction of 85 units of housing opened last week at Covenant Manor in Jamestown.

A press release from Lundine's office noted that the congressman was scheduled to attend two committee meetings related to housing on Monday, where he was to question Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Patricia Harris.

"I am extremely concerned over the delay in implementing this program, which has been funded at \$10 million for this year," Lundine was quoted as saying in the release. The program provides for congregate dining rooms and other shared facilities, as well as personal and transportation assistance.

Lundine was also scheduled to testify before a House appropriations subcommittee on the rural housing budget, and call for quick action on funding for the new Homeownership Assistance Program.

Speaking against "disproportionate cuts" in the housing budget, Lundine said, "I strongly support the president in his efforts to reduce the deficit as part of the anti-inflation program, but it hardly

makes sense to focus these budget cuts on with the tight and inflationary housing the very programs which help people cope / market."