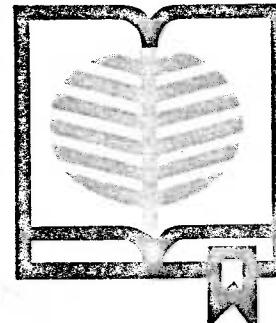


NEW YORK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CONTINUING THE BIBLICAL SEMINARY IN NEW YORK

235 E. 49TH ST. • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 • 212-355-4434



27 Apr 76

TOWN BOARD: NEW CASTLE

Meeting tonight,
on multi-family housing



A STATEMENT OF WILLIS AND LOREE ELLIOTT

I am Willis Elliott. Loree and I live in the immediate area of the sites being considered for multi-family housing. It is the only property we own, and the only property we intend ever to own: we plan to retire here. If any property-owners can be threatened by multi-family housing, we're it.

And we do feel threatened. Let me quickly sort out the threats we feel, big threats and little threats. First, the little threats:

1. The possible depressing of the value of our real estate. We see the threat as very small indeed, given the experience of communities of our type that have come open to multi-family housing (on which see articles in last Sunday's TIMES).

2. The possible lowering of the quality of life of our immediate community. We see this, too, as a very small threat, given the quality controls operative in our situation (on which I refer you again to last Sunday's TIMES).

And now for the big threats we feel:

1. We feel a threat to the size of our souls if we come down, on this issue, on the side of fear rather than on the side of faith in the future. We believe that the fundamental component in the quality of life is soul-size. We know that fear, defensiveness, and enclavism shrivel the soul of a person and a community and a nation and give us monstrous gifts like racism, Vietnam, and Watergate. And we pray something better for ourselves and our neighbors and this community. We are grateful to God for the large souls who have not let this issue of multi-family housing die, but have persisted to the point of presenting it to power, in this meeting.

2. Again, we feel the threat of losing the initiative at the local level, the threat of being dragged into the future because through fear and selfishness this community refuses to move into the future. We believe that we in this community are, on this issue, not just under the judgment of those less fortunate in and beyond our community, but under the present and future judgment of the courts and under the judgment of history and under the judgment of God.

Loree and I say yes to multi-family housing in Chappaqua.

OVER

Residents react to forum:

Neighbors of possible housing site feel threatened by fear and selfishness

(This statement, prepared for the New Castle housing meeting April 27, is printed here at the writer's request.—Editor)

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Willis Elliott,
Chappaqua