

ices, at the Richmond Chamber
n morn till night, trying to find
individual workers, as well as
saves come to the Eastbay from

all sections of the country to work in the shipyards and
other war industries. All residents are urged to help fill
the need by making available whatever accommodations
they have, or may devise.

s in Bay-Wide Movement to House War Workers

investigation and activity designed
to break the deadlock which has
been slowly stranding private con-
struction of new homes.

3. Cooperation with the ship-
yards and the Maritime Commission
in the general Bay Area program
which aims at creation of new living
space through remodeling of
old houses, basements, attics, store
buildings and even garages.

Richmond's problem centers
around the fact that there has been
a tremendous influx of workers
since the early part of 1941; an in-
flux that has been gaining steadily
all during 1942. With four thousands

operating as completely new in-
dustries, and all the older industries
operating on a much enlarged
schedule, the city has had to absorb
an estimated increase of more than
12,000 persons since the 1940 census.
and would now have a much larger
population if places existed for them
to live. Some months ago the Kaiser
interests, operating the shipyards,
made a survey which indicated that
there would be 60,000 men em-
ployed in the shipyards by Christ-
mas of this year. That number was
reached and passed early in Sep-
tember and is still mounting.

DORMITORIES FOR MEN

Foreseeing the need, at least in
part, the Richmond Housing Au-
thority went forward with public
housing projects, including the so-
called defense home type, dormi-
tories for single men, and more
lately the mass-produced prefabricated
house which is built by the mile
with a minimum of labor, ma-
terials and time. As a result of this
activity there are 1650 public hous-
ing units either occupied or to be
finished and occupied by Novem-
ber 1, of which 3650 are for families,
the remainder for single men. In
addition, 2000 more are now planned
in another new project, besides a
trailer camp for 1000 trailers, to be
located near Richmond, presumably
at San Pablo.

By all the old standards, this
would have been a huge program
of house building. But by existing
standards it barely scratches the
surface. With the possible exception
of Vallejo, Richmond has developed
into the outstanding war produc-
tion center of the Pacific Coast,
with every indication that there
will be much more concentration
along the same line in the not dis-
tant future.

The housing crisis is expected to
be at its peak between now and
November 1. The ferry service to
the shipyards from San Francisco
has already started, and operation
of the new Key Mail service from
Berkeley and Oakland is to start
about November 1. Both these new
transportation developments are
expected to relieve the pressure
somewhat by easing the travel con-
ditions so that the entire Bay re-
gion may become the bedroom of
Richmond workers. However, the
crisis will still exist as surveys
have indicated that there is a sur-
prisingly small percentage of vacan-
cies in any of the Bay cities. This
leads naturally to the movement
for alteration and remodeling of
existing structures so that they
may be transformed into living
quarters. This latter will proceed
in Richmond to the fullest possible
extent, it was said by President Ed-
gar W. Dale of the Chamber of
Commerce, but important results
are not expected along this line in
Richmond, as the community does
not have the idle buildings which
could thus be transformed.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

Definite results of an extremely
valuable nature have been achieved
by the Chamber's room-renting
bureau, which has been in opera-
tion in a big way since the early
part of this year. Opening of the
first dormitories to single men was
expected to bring a falling off in
the demand for rooms, but the in-
flux of new men has more than
kept pace with the new living
space, and the services of this ren-

tal bureau are being called upon at
an increasing rate. At least 3000
men have thus been placed in pri-
vate homes, and it is pointed out
that this is a service of inestimable
value, as workers can not possibly
function at a war production job
unless they have a place to live.

Appeals for the listing of more
rooms are being made, the latest
being a letter to more than 200 im-
portant clubs and organizations
which has brought still more rooms
to the rental bureau's files.

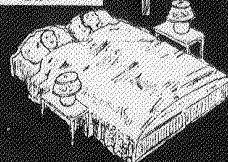
The Chamber's greatest success
has been in the placing of single
men. Every day, according to Mrs.
Helen B. Kinsbury, secretary of
the Chamber, family men line-up

Continued Page 10-C, Col. 3

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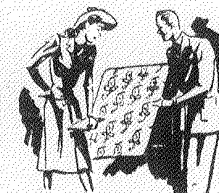
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