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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

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Preface

This paper represents an extension of my previous writings on the relation between economic stabilization policies and governmental housing credit programs. Service on the staff of the Council of Economic Advisers from the spring of 1955 to mid-1957 gave me many new operational insights into the subject. Distillation of this kind of intimate experience, it seems to me, is a worth-while endeavor and an indispensable means of progressing toward better understanding of complex issues. But it is not without hazards. I can only hope that both training and temperament have enabled me to take a reasonably objective view of developments in which I participated at the staff level of the Council. I have also made a conscientious effort to avoid being led or misled, as the case may be, by positions taken in my previous brushes with the subject.

The paper is essentially an appraisal of the 1953-1957 record of governmental housing credit policies in relation to general economic stabilization policies. Extending the story beyond this period would have added little to the analysis of fundamental issues. All of these are sufficiently illuminated by the 1953-1957 experience. For this reason, I resisted the temptation to bring the record up to date and, in the process, incur the risk of offering conclusions on developments too recent for detailed analysis.

I am indebted to many of my colleagues at the National Bureau of Economic Research for comments on draft materials, and foremost to Arthur F. Burns and Solomon Fabricant, who encouraged me to undertake this essay. Miss Herta Horny gave valuable research assistance in preparing the paper. My sincere thanks go to Mr. H. Irving Forman, who drew the charts, and Mrs. Rose Altman for helping see the paper through its final stages.

I also wish to acknowledge the contribution of many specialists in

Preface

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Contents

	PAGE
PREFACE	V
1. INTRODUCTION	1
Reconciling Disparate National Objectives	2
The Housing Sector and Its Federal Aid Programs—Some Orders of Magnitude	5
2. THE HOUSING EXPANSION OF 1953-1954: A CLASSIC RESPONSE TO EASY CREDIT	16
Income and Demographic Changes	16
The Rush into Mortgage Investment	21
Governmental Housing Credit Policies	28
Search for Flexible Terms in Federal Housing Programs	31
3. THE SELECTIVE CREDIT CONTROLS OF 1955	37
Catalogue of Restraints	41
The Controls on Government-Underwritten Loans	45
Timing and Rationale	45
Some Effects of the Restraints	51
Curbs on Interim Credit to Mortgage Lenders	57
General Appraisal	64
4. THE POLICY REVERSAL OF 1956-1957	69
The Record of Actions	70
Rationale of the Policy Shift	76
Adjustments in the Housing and Mortgage Markets	76
Disproportionate Effects of Tight Credit	78
The Impediment of Noncompetitive Interest Rates	81
Conclusion	83
5. SOME FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES	88
The Volatility of Federally Assisted Construction	90

Contents

	PAGE
Reflections on Social Priorities	97
Residential Building—Balance Wheel of the Economy?	101
What to Stabilize	109
SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES	113
APPENDIX A: NOTE ON MORTGAGE DISCOUNTS	121
Differential Effects of Changes in Discounts and Interest Rates	122
Control of Discounts	125
APPENDIX B: CHANGES IN TERMS OF FHA-INSURED HOME LOANS IN THE HOUSING ACT OF 1954	128

Tables

	PAGE
1. Private Housing Starts under FHA and V.A. Programs Compared with Total Private Housing Starts, 1946-1957	6
2. FHA and V.A. Home Loans Made Compared with Total Nonfarm Mortgage Recordings of \$20,000 or Less, 1946-1957	7
3. Government-Underwritten Residential Mortgage Debt Compared with Total Residential Mortgage Debt, 1946-1957	9
4. Mortgage Holdings of the Federal National Mortgage Association Compared with the Government-Underwritten Residential Mortgage Debt, 1946-1957	13
5. Federal Home Loan Bank Advances, Obligations of the Federal Home Loan Banks, and Mortgage Loans Made by FHLB Member Institutions, 1946-1957	14
6. Annual Rates of Private Housing Starts and Construction Expenditures for New Dwelling Units, Monthly, 1953-1958	18
7. Index of Residential Construction Costs, 1946-1957	20
8. Outstanding Commitments of Savings Banks in New York State for Government-Underwritten Mortgages, 1951-1957	23
9. Estimated Amount of Nonfarm Mortgage Recordings of \$20,000 or Less, Monthly, 1952-1957	25
10. Net Flow of Savings into Major Financial Institutions, 1952-1957	27
11. Purchases, Sales, and Holdings of Mortgages by the Federal National Mortgage Association, 1946-1958 (First Quarter)	32
12. Index of Wholesale Building Material Prices, 1946-1957	38
13. Selected Characteristics of Home Loans Guaranteed by the Veterans Administration in 1954 and 1955	54

Tables

	PAGE
14. Outstanding Advances of the Federal Home Loan Banks, Monthly, 1953-1958	56
15. Mortgage Warehousing Credit Extended by Commercial Banks, Selected Dates, 1954-1958	59
16. Illustrations of Minimum Down-Payment Requirements on New 1- and 2-Family Homes Bought with FHA-Insured Loans, 1955-1958	75
17. Vacant Dwelling Units as a Percentage of All Dwelling Units, 1950, 1955-1957	77
18. Outstanding Borrowings of the Federal National Mortgage Association, Combined Operations, 1948-1957	85
19. Amount of Mortgage Loans Held by Mutual Savings Banks within Own State and out of State, 1954, 1955, and 1957	93
20. Increases in the Amount of Mortgage Loans Held by Mutual Savings Banks within Own State and out of State, 1954, 1955, and 1957	94
21. Quarterly Changes in Gross National Product and Residential Construction Expenditures, 1948-1958	102
22. Characteristics of Short Cycles in Residential Construction, 1946-1958	107
23. Cycle Averages of Residential Construction, 1946-1958	108

Supplementary Tables

24. Commitments of Life Insurance Companies, 1951-1957	113
25. Average Yields on FHA Home Loans Purchased in the Secondary Mortgage Market, 1948-1957	117
26. Number of Primary Home Loans Guaranteed by the Veterans Administration and No-Down-Payment and Long-Maturity Loans as a Percentage of Total Number, 1953-1957	118

Appendix Table

27. Illustrations of FHA Minimum Down-Payment Requirements for Single-Family Homes before and after the Housing Act of 1954	129
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Charts

	PAGE
1. Outstanding and New Commitments of Life Insurance Companies for Nonfarm Residential Mortgages, 1951-1957	23
2. Average Yields on FHA Home Loans Purchased in the Secondary Mortgage Market and on High-Grade Corporate Bonds, Monthly, 1948-1957	24
3. No-Down-Payment and Long-Maturity Loans as a Percentage of All V.A.-Guaranteed Primary Home Loans Closed, Monthly, 1953-1957	39
4. Mortgage Warehousing Loans and Federal Home Loan Bank Advances Outstanding, Selected Periods, 1954-1958	57
5. Net Purchases of Mortgages by the Federal National Mortgage Association, Quarterly, 1948-1958	84
6. Annual Changes in Private Housing Starts Financed with and without Government-Underwritten Loans, 1947-1957	91
7. Annual Rate of Private Housing Starts and of Construction Expenditures for New Dwelling Units, Monthly, 1946-1958	106

