

# Major Landlord Accused Of Antiblack Bias in City

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is charging discrimination against blacks in apartment rentals, brought suit in Federal Court in Brooklyn yesterday against the Trump Management Corporation, a major owner and manager of real estate here.

The corporation, which owns and rents more than 14,000 apartments in Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island, was accused of violating the Fair Housing Act of 1968 in its operation of 39 buildings. Most are in Coney Island, Brooklyn, and in Jamaica Estates and Forest Hills, Queens.

Seeking an injunction to halt alleged discriminatory practises, the Government contended that Trump Management had refused to rent or negotiate rentals "because of race and color." It also charged that the company had required different rental terms and conditions because of race and that it had misrepresented to blacks that apartments were not available.

At the corporation's main office, 600 Avenue Z in Brooklyn, Donald Trump, president, denied the charges.

"They are absolutely ridiculous," he said. "We never have discriminated, and we never would. There have been a number of local actions against us,

and we won them all. We were charged with discrimination, and we proved in court that we did not discriminate."

Mr. Trump and his father, Fred C. Trump, the principal stockholder and corporate board chairman, were also named as defendants. They are required to respond to the complaint within 20 days. The Trump family has been in the real-estate business for more than 40 years.

In Washington, J. Stanley Pottinger, assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's civil-rights division, termed the suit the second major rental discrimination action begun by the department in the last two years.

The first involved Samuel J. Lefrak, one of the country's

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largest builders. The Justice Department had charged racial discrimination in the renting of 21,600 Lefrak-controlled apartments in 150 buildings in Brooklyn and Queens.

## Agreement With Lefrak

That case was resolved on Jan. 28, 1971, in an agreement between the Justice Department and the Lefrak Organization. Lefrak promised to prohibit discrimination in apartment rentals, and subsequently

fifty black families were assisted in moving into predominantly white buildings.

The New York Urban League, whose Operation Open City had filed complaints against the Lefrak Organization, called the agreement "a great disappointment" to numerous other blacks and Puerto Ricans "who for years have been denied an equal chance at Lefrak's housing units." Occupancy by blacks and Puerto Ricans has risen "substantially" at Lefrak buildings since

then, according to Mr. Pottinger.

He said the Trump case had been referred to the Justice Department by the New York City Commission on Human Rights and was based, in part, on allegations made by Operation Open City. Specific violations were not mentioned in the complaint.

The average monthly rental for a one-bedroom apartment in the Trump "villages" is about \$250, according to the younger Trump. A two-bedroom rental is about \$290.