

# Delay Perils Alexandria Housing Plan

## 148 Low-Cost Rental Units Facing PHA Disapproval Unless Agency Acts Soon

By Sam Stavisky  
Post Reporter

Alexandria may lose its 148-unit low-cost rental housing project as a result of its long delay in awarding a construction contract, The Washington Post learned yesterday.

The Public Housing Administration has informally but bluntly warned the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority that unless it acts quickly, the Federal Government will have to cancel the project for this fiscal year.

The Federal agency, aroused over the manner in which the Alexandria Authority has handled bids on the project, further wanted that it might have to demand sale of the slum-cleared site by the old Parker-Gray High School.

The PHA is indignant because the Alexandria Authority, after receiving bids and announcing Victor R. Beauchamp, Inc. as low bidder by \$62,500 on November 6, failed to sign an agreement with the Washington construction firm. The Beauchamp bid was binding on the company only for 30 days, and Beauchamp can withdraw his bid at any time.

The five-member Alexandria Authority in a secret session on November 17 voted to reject the low Beauchamp bid on the ground that Beauchamp, as a union-shop contractor, would not buy supplies from non-union supply firms in nearby Virginia and thereby violated the Taft-Hartley management-labor relations law ban on secondary boycotts.

A week later, the authority voted in favor of trying to get the Alexandria open-shop firm of Eugene Simpson and Bros., second lowest bidder, to lower its bid to the Beauchamp figure.

At the time, while seeking legal sanction for its proposed course from the PHA—which turned it down—and from the State Attorney General—who has the request under consideration—the board asked Beauchamp to keep his bid alive until January 15.

Yesterday, Beauchamp wrote the authority that he would give the Alexandria board no such commitment. Instead, Beauchamp said, he is reserving the right to withdraw his bid at any time and demanded immediate acceptance of his original offer to do the job for \$1,191,671.

Public Housing Administration has already, informally, turned thumbs down on the prospect of a new low bid being negotiated by the authority. Furthermore, PHA has also made it clear that if the Alexandria Authority publicly rejects the Beauchamp bid—which it has done secretly—then there's no likelihood of the project getting the needed Federal approval for the present fiscal year, which runs to the end of next June.



Associated Press Wirephoto

## *Ordained in Rome*

Patrick Norton, 69-year-old Dubuque, Iowa, widower and father of 14, in St. Girolamo Church, Rome, where he was ordained a priest of the Roman Catholic Church. The new priest built a newsboy's route in the Iowa city into a prosperous wholesale news agency and raised a family of nine girls and five boys, one of whom is a priest.