

5 Prentiss Street, Apt. 7
Cambridge, Mass. 02140
September 4, 1969

Mr. Philip M. Cronin
Cambridge City Solicitor
City Hall
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mr. Cronin:

~~HOW ON EARTH CAN YOU CLAIM THAT THERE IS NO SERIOUS PUBLIC~~
HOUSING EMERGENCY IN CAMBRIDGE???

If you city officials were more in touch with those you were supposedly appointed to serve -- the people of Cambridge (and not just the landlords, by all accounts a small and self-interested minority in this issue) -- you would have absolutely no doubt that there is a crisis in the housing situation in this city.

The increase of rents this fall far exceeds what one might reasonably expect. Try hunting for an apartment and you'd discover that soon enough. In my building, for example, rents have gone up from \$115 to \$140 and from \$125 to \$150 (with no improvements in the accommodations). Virtually all of the tenants live on fixed incomes. Many are students, trying to survive on incomes of \$2500 or less; one was an elderly lady, forced out by the appalling rent increase. To justify this increase in rents my landlord said bluntly, "I can get that much. All the apartments are now going for rents that high." He'll charge whatever he can get; the inordinate spiral in rents thus goes up and up, and the victims are those with small and fixed incomes.

The voters of Cambridge should have a chance to make themselves known on this issue. It is they who are being victimized. Why can't those in government be more in touch with the problems of the average citizen??

Sincerely,

Barrie Thorne
Miss Barrie Thorne

→ cc: Cambridge City Council

WHY CANT YOU DO SOMETHING
ABOUT THIS HORRIBLE SITUATION??

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Communication from Miss Barrie Thorne
5: Prentiss St., Cambridge requesting
the City Council to do something about
the increases in rents in the City of
Cambridge and stating that there is a
crisis in the housing situation in this
city

September 8, 1969.

*Placed on File -
Copies to all Councillors*