TO: PRESIDENTS OF ALL NATIONAL BANKS

National banks were advised in Banking Circular No. 21, January 14, 1970 that they were authorized under the provisions of paragraph Seventh of 12 U.S.C. 24 to purchase investment units consisting of stock in National Housing Corporation for Housing Partnerships and limited partnership interests in the National Housing Partnership.

We have been asked whether national banks may invest in limited partnerships which purchase housing involved in section 236 and 221(d)(3) of the National Housing Act.

National banks are authorized by the provisions of paragraph Seventh of 12 U.S.C. 24 to make investments in limited partnerships formed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 3937(a) or 3937(c) (sections 907(a) and 907(c)) of Title IX of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 referred to in Banking Circular No. 21. These provisions, however, do not authorize national banks to invest in limited partnerships other than the National Housing Partnership or a limited partnership in which the National Housing Partnership is also a partner.

James E. Smith
Comptroller of the Currency