

Capital's Poor Housing Shocks Women Voters

By George Williams

Mrs. Anne Rudin, president of the California League of Women Voters and a resident of Sacramento, says she is "shocked" and sick at heart at the widespread existence of dilapidated housing in which many Sacramentans are forced to live.

Mrs. Rudin was among 35 league members who yesterday made a buss tour of neighborhoods where substandard housing has been pinpointed by the city's Community Improvement Program.

The tour was arranged by Kenneth E. Jones, director of the program; Walter Slipe, assistant city manager for community development, and Otto Steinbrenner Jr., the city's chief building inspector, all of whom accompanied the league members.

Areas Visited

The tour included Southside, Glen Elder, Oak Park, Del Paso Heights, Gardenland and Washington neighborhoods.

Virtually all of the women agreed with Mrs. Rudin that the community has a "deep and growing" problem with substandard housing.

Many expressed alarm about the findings of a housing study made by the law school of the University of

California at Davis. The report was particularly critical of the lack of relocation provisions for tenants forced out of unsafe housing in Sacramento because of the demolition phase of the community improvement program.

The women were chagrined to find one particular dwelling which had been split into 13 substandard living units. They noted that the landlord pays only \$300 a year in taxes for the property, but collects over 20 times that amount in rent.

Repairs are Neglected

They also were dismayed to find that some substandard housing landlords, after collecting fire insurance money, refuse to use the money to repair fire damage but force their tenants to live in the damaged structures.

Slipe noted that league members are unusually sophisticated about such problems having had more than normal exposure to them through league projects.

"It is significant that they were still shocked even with their experience," he said.

Will Report Findings

The women will report to fellow members at meetings of the county's 11 league units during the period of Nov. 17-20.