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NYU Students Visit Newburgh for Urban Planning Study

By AL HINTON

A group of New York University graduate students arrived in Newburgh Saturday to study the city as part of an urban planning class. They may have come more than was expected of them in the first hour after their arrival. They were greeted at 80 St. Mary College by a group of civic-minded people including Mayor George McKeown, Dr. Harold Roux, superintendent of schools; Justice Wright, president of the Greater Newburgh Chamber of Commerce; C. David Leeks, president of Paterson's committee, and Pattern staff members.

At one point in the discussion following the introductions of the officials to the students, Prof. David Fayney, instructor of the class, asked Mayor McKeown if this was the first time all these men had gotten together for a discussion. The mayor answered that it was. This is the clue to the added credit accruing to the students.

All the officials welcomed the students and each offered such information as he had available. The students were members of the planning committee, and Pattern staff members.

The mayor also mentioned the limited type of manufacturing in the city. Dr. Monson mentioned that diversification kept the city solvent during the Depression. The mayor said that Newburgh was second only to New York City in its state in production of women's pocketbooks.

Dr. Monson brought out another problem facing the city. He said 35 per cent of the children from the central and eastern areas of the city starting school in September are not there in June.

During the general discussion of the plight of Newburgh that was precipitated by the students' questions, Rev. Jones agreed with the mayor's statement of Thursday before the Newburgh Optimist Club that nobody really worked on the job of urban renewal so it never got anywhere in recent years. There were few groups skilled enough to rate all the factors.

Mr. Kent said that local groups were often too small to be useful in the subject. Mr. Leeks said it could be a very problem in the lack of progress of the US project. Mr. Reavis, referring to the election, asked the mayor if the successful communication between governmental and voluntary units had not started in November. The mayor agreed that it had. He added that he was trying to get people onto the boards and governing bodies of the city that could make these groups work.