

## U.S. Charges Irregularities, Takes Over Housing Project

WASHINGTON (AP).—Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell announced Friday the government is temporarily taking over operation of a federal-aided municipal housing project at Galveston, Texas, because of

alleged financial irregularities in the handling of the project.

The Attorney General, who brought a civil suit against the Galveston Housing Commission on behalf of the Public Housing Administration, said a consent decree was entered in the federal district court late Friday. It puts federal authorities in possession of the housing units.

Brownell said the possession and management will be "for a period not to exceed six months in order that the conditions criticized by the federal officials may be corrected."

The action was taken under the 1938 Public Housing Act. It is the first time the government has exercised its right to take over a low-cost housing development involving the use of federal funds.

The government agreed in 1953 to advance \$7,000,000 to the Galveston Commission, and to make further annual contributions for a period of 40 years in order to assure low rents on 1,034 apartment units being built by the commission.

The January suit charged that project monies had been embezzled and otherwise diverted "to purposes not related to the project."