

Chairman POWELL. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. Dent.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman and Mayor Wagner—

Chairman POWELL. Will the gentleman yield, Mr. Dent?

Mr. DENT. Yes.

Chairman POWELL. I regret I have to leave for the White House. The gentleman from Chicago will chair the balance of the morning. We hope we will move along because we have the distinguished mayor of Chicago and the mayor of Detroit, the mayor of St. Louis, and the mayor of Syracuse here.

The House will meet today for the sole purpose of eulogizing our beloved colleague, the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. O'Brien.

As soon as that is finished, we will reconvene, which should be roughly around 1:30.

Excuse me, please. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENT. In order not to delay the proceedings, I will make a couple observations to some of the observations made on the other side as well as by former witnesses. There seems to be a tendency here to sort of lay some kind of blame on the big cities in that they have not been able, as it were, to take care of this growing and yet a very old problem. Yet, few of us seem to take time to understand the situation, as I know it from my own experiences in Pennsylvania for many years. It is a question of balance of payments.

The large cities and the so-called rich States have been in a position of being the victims of a negative balance of payments. We pay more into the Federal Government than we get back out on a percentage basis as compared to other areas of the country that do not have the large population or the so-called wealth behind the citizen. We get it in education, we get it in all of the various aids that the Government gives out. Finally it has to catch up.

In this particular instance, in this field of battle dealing with poverty, it appears to me as though the natural thing will be that the big cities and the so-called wealthy States will receive more on a percentage basis because of the incident of poverty being heavier in the city of New York and the city of Philadelphia and any other large city. So it is no strange phenomenon that those who have been getting the greater share out of the Federal funds on a percentage basis heretofore would be a little bit complaining now about maybe a rather large cut of the pie, as it were, would be going to the big city. But everyone recognizes the need.

A statement was made by one of the previous members of the committee who said that the poor, as you described them, 40 or 50 years ago being immigrants coming over into this country, the Italians, Jewish, Irish, and so on, the Germans, and that somehow they got along and climbed out of this poverty, but we must understand one thing, they climbed out of the poverty during the days that this Nation had a growing job economy in relationship to population. We are now in a diminishing job economy in relation to population. So, therefore, those who come up, as has been explained, from the poorer States, are finding themselves in a diminishing job opportunity era. It is so necessary, as the mayor so well put it in his statement, through-