

Mr. BARRETT. Dr. Weaver, thanks very much for your testimony, and thanks for giving me the plug for submitting H.R. 12946.

I just want to call the attention of the committee and to your staff to the fact that it was the chairman of the full committee that submitted that bill. I desire to give him credit for it.

Secretary WEAVER. Thank you, sir.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Secretary, before we start, some of our members have come in a little after we have started, and I had then laid down the ground rules of 10 minutes for each member. I note that some of the members have meetings this afternoon, so they will be unable to return here. So we are going to change the rule, if it is agreeable to the minority here, to 5 minutes to allow them to ask some questions. And then we might have a 10-minute rule later.

Mr. WIDNALL. And we will meet this afternoon?

Mr. BARRETT. Yes.

Mr. WIDNALL. And we have the possibility if we do not finish today of having Dr. Weaver and his aids appear further before the committee?

Mr. BARRETT. We certainly are going to take advantage of all the information we can get from Dr. Weaver and his very fine staff. And we may have to call them back, or we may even have to put them on standby if we are not able to get the information we want.

Would that be agreeable, Mr. Secretary?

Secretary WEAVER. That would be agreeable. And may I ask at this time that we submit a longer statement to be put in the record?

Mr. BARRETT. Without objection, it will be placed in the record.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF ROBERT C. WEAVER, SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the housing and urban development legislation presently under consideration by your committee consists of three bills: the Demonstration Cities Act of 1966, introduced by Congressman Patman (H.R. 12341), Congressman Barrett (H.R. 12342), and others; the Urban Development Act, introduced by Congressman Barrett (H.R. 12939) and Congressman Patman (H.R. 12946); and the Housing and Urban Development Amendments of 1966 introduced by Congressman Patman (H.R. 13064), and Congressman Barrett (H.R. 13065).

These bills are proposed by the administration to carry out recommendations by the President on city demonstration programs and other needed programs related to housing and urban development.

DEMONSTRATION CITIES ACT OF 1966

The demonstration cities bill is the most important proposal in the President's program to assist in rebuilding American cities. It has focused the interest of the Congress and the entire Nation on the most critical domestic problem facing the United States—the need to improve the quality of urban life.

In his message to the Congress recommending the demonstration cities bill, the President said:

"From the experience of three decades, it is clear to me that American cities require a program that will—

"Concentrate our available resources—in planning tools, in housing construction, in job training, in health facilities, in recreation, in welfare programs, in education—to improve the conditions of life in urban areas.

"Join together all available talent and skills in a coordinated effort. Mobilize local leadership and private initiative, so that local citizens will determine the shape of their new city—freed from the constraints that have handicapped their past efforts and inflated their costs."

The demonstration cities bill would authorize such a program. With its enactment, 1966 can be "the year of rebirth for American cities."