

These efforts have helped overcome a history of slums, inadequate school building, and the problems of a large minority population suffering from the wounds of a disgraceful national legacy of neglect and prejudice.

But all these efforts are not enough to create what we need in our cities today—a total recasting of urban life, from housing to health, from education to recreation, from work to pleasure.

Through our urban renewal program we have obtained a grant reservation of \$120 million. This represents a grant reservation of \$300 per person, the highest in the Nation. It is not enough.

Through the Department of Labor, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the Commerce Department, and the Office of Economic Opportunity, we have received over \$35 million. With these funds, we have established skills training centers, youth opportunity centers, on-the-job training programs, year-round preschool programs, Neighborhood Youth Corps programs, tutorial and remedial educational programs, recreational programs, and a host of others. And they are not enough.

We have provided 13,713 public housing units. We have relocated close to 50,000 persons. We have embraced citizen participation in all programs. We have offered generous tax abatement programs for new construction, as permitted under special State law. We have constructed new schools, built new sewers, and we have overhauled and vigorously enforced our inspection and housing ordinances. And still it is not enough.

With all these things, more than 100,000 persons continue to live in blighted and substandard neighborhoods, bearing the crushing burdens which flow from an unhealthy physical and sociological pattern of life.

If cities are to avoid catastrophe, we must not only overcome the effects of decay, but we must obliterate them forever. Intelligent and massive Federal aid is the best answer.

The legislation before you, inspired by the President of the United States in his forthright expression of concern for urban life, brings to us a method for testing various means of bringing Federal aid to our cities.

We must now pinpoint the interrelationships between various Federal programs. We must devise new combinations of old programs and develop totally new programs. Only in this way can we develop a long-range approach to merging the social, physical, and economic considerations that are all important to the survival of our cities.

Now let me turn to details of the bill itself.

I believe, first of all, the objective of the act must not be simply to warm over public housing or spruce up urban renewal. The act must go beyond the existing array of Federal programs. It must remain a unique program—a demonstration program. It must be concerned with action beyond the rebuilding and rehabilitation of slum structures. It must demonstrate that urban life is for all people, the rich as well as the poor, the executive as well as the laborer and that there is a place for the great mass of middle class citizens that make up the backbone of our Nation. The act must remain flexible and it must remain experimental. Its objective is the rebuilding of a total city life, not the simply physical rebuilding of a neighborhood or the mere providing of supportive social services.