

Before the relocation program got underway on July 1, 1959, there were 2,646 families and more than 900 single transients living in rooming houses on the site. Almost two-thirds of the families, or 1,686, found their own new dwellings. Each such unit, when located in New York City, was inspected by the department of real estate. Families which rehoused themselves were paid bonus allowances based on the number of rooms in their old residences. These bonuses included moving expenses.

Of the remainder, 595 families, or 22.4 percent were sponsor relocated; that is, they were rehoused in dwellings found for them by the sponsor and inspected by the department of real estate. Many of these units were found through real estate brokers who were paid finders' fees. The fees were \$150 for apartments of up to three rooms and \$250 for four rooms or more. These fees included redecorating costs. If the landlord did not assume responsibility for redecorating, the sponsor had the work done. Each family moved into an apartment which was freshly painted.

There were 106 families on the site, or 4 percent, who were rehoused in public housing projects. Their moving expenses were also paid. Relocation cost per family averaged \$280 at that time. I am detailing this experience, Mr. Chairman, for the committee to know that this job is going along a trail that has already been blazed, and that there has been accumulated experience, and I hope it is the intention of Congress to use all the agencies that have had experience and can help. Because relocation is the whole problem in this whole approach. This is the problem of our own American DP's—the displaced families who happened to be by accident in the path of this progress we are trying to accomplish.

The proposed Demonstration Cities Act of 1966 is a sound, forward-looking, and exciting program responsive to President Johnson's challenging proposal for the social and physical restoration of American cities. As the President has said, the enactment of this program into law could transform the cities of the present into "the masterpieces of our civilization."

The achievement of this objective through the enactment of the proposed Demonstration Cities Act of 1966 has the solid support of labor in America.

We regard the execution of this program as an urgent task, of high priority. To the end that its realization may be expedited, we ask that all renewal title I funds be made available immediately under this act.

At the same time, let me again emphasize our view that the specific recommendations proposed to carry out this program are unduly modest in magnitude. Their scope should be enlarged.

If "massive additions to the supply of low- and moderate-cost housing," proposed by the President, are to be realized, additional legislation is needed.

We ask particularly that provision be made to step up construction of low-rent public housing to a yearly rate of at least 125,000 dwelling units a year. We also urge that adequate funds be made promptly available to implement the rent supplement program for disadvantaged people, enacted by the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965.