

Mr. SHISHKIN. Thank you.
(The material referred to follows:)

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT BY BORIS SHISHKIN, SECRETARY,
HOUSING COMMITTEE, AFL-CIO

In my testimony before the subcommittee on March 3, 1966, I made the following recommendation:

"We also ask an amendment clarifying the program of buying homes of employees affected by the closing of Defense Department and other Federal installations. Homeowners of houses in the vicinity of such installations, forced to relocate because of the closing of such installations in which they are employed, find themselves in great distress because there is no market, subsequent to the closing, for the homes they have been buying with their hard-earned wages."

In support of this recommendation, I cite just one specific example of the many situations of distress to which Federal employees and their families have been subjected in connection with the closing of Defense Department and other Federal installations, forcing them to move to another location, and to abandon their homes at the location of such installations.

The following is an excerpt from a letter addressed to George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, by C. E. Berger, president of the Utah State AFL-CIO:

"A great number of people working at Hill Field Airbase have contacted our office in regards to being transferred to Hill Field, Utah, after other military installations were closed down.

"These people find they are now in a position of not being able to rent or sell their homes at the locations they moved from and a good many find they must maintain two homes. As you know, when bases are shut down, no one wants to buy or rent this property; and, if they do so, it is at a tremendous financial loss or the rent is very inadequate. Also, no building can stand vacant without vandalism destroying it.

"Many of these people likely would not have made the transfer had they thought there would be no relief forthcoming. Many have had to continue payments on vacant homes, in addition to taxes, insurance and other incidental expenses. When one has life's savings tied up in a home, it is very disheartening to be faced with this type of predicament.

"A good many felt the phasing-out of these military installations would be over a period of 3 to 4 years, providing for a gradual transition, but it seems the transition has been very rapid and has created hardships on most all people involved who were required to move to hold their jobs at a much lesser pay.

"There must be some way to help these people with their housing problem. I hope you can supply some answers to this problem which will make these people happy to be in Utah and satisfied, contented employees at the airbase."

In view of the extremely serious character of this problem, its effect on the welfare of Federal employees and their families, and the adverse effect of this problem on the morale of this key personnel in our defense effort, I hope the subcommittee will amend the proposed bill entitled "Housing and Urban Development Amendments of 1966," to provide the necessary relief through orderly and expeditious acquisition by the Federal Government, of such homes, as part of the cost of the closing of such Federal installations.

Mr. SHISHKIN. And let me state again that, to protect labor standards, the AFL-CIO urges that prevailing wage and other labor standards should be maintained for all employees engaged in construction in any program involving Federal financial assistance or mortgage insurance. And that, of course, would apply to leasing as well in which there is Federal money, as other types of financial assistance.

Let me say in conclusion that there is a pressing need for prompt enactment into law of the legislation now before you. The need to make our cities and towns habitable is extremely urgent.

As Walter Lippmann has said:

This work is not postponable as mere "butter" which we can do without while we make the "guns." There are, as New York and Los Angeles have learned, explosive urban problems underneath our glittering affluence.