

As reported by the Wall Street Journal for January 5, 1966, a recent survey showed that there are at least 21 cities in which resentment is rising against inadequate housing, overcrowding, and insufferable living conditions.

The legislation before you is not only remedial but also preventive. Let Congress act now to remedy these underlying conditions and at the same time prevent the costly explosive disruptions of community life in America's cities and towns.

I thank you.

I have a statement adopted by the executive council of the AFL-CIO on February 28 at their last meeting just concluded. And I would like to have an opportunity to insert that at the conclusion of my testimony.

Mr. BARRETT. Without objection, it may be done.

Mr. SHISHKIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You are very generous.

There is a statement inserted in the record that is based on the figures supplied by the Department of Commerce, Government figures on housing starts showing total private and public, including farm and private nonfarm, housing from 1960 to 1965.

Mr. BARRETT. The statement has been inserted in the record.

Mr. SHISHKIN. Thank you very much. I will be glad to answer any questions.

Mr. BARRETT. As I said before, Mr. Shishkin, it is always a pleasure to welcome an—we hate to use the word “old” friend, we mean old in friendship, but young in your makeup.

Mr. SHISHKIN. Let me say, though, that I am not so touchy about it because I actually can tell you that the first chairman before whom I testified in this committee was Henry B. Steagall. And you can figure that out.

Mr. BARRETT. Of course, we always consider you one who gives the subcommittee experienced testimony with the weight of a great organization which represents millions and millions of working American men and women behind it.

Mr. Shishkin, so far in our hearings there is one aspect of the demonstration cities bill which has not been touched upon. And I think it is very important. As I understand it, as to these large city areas which are to be built and rehabilitated, the plan indicates that much of the labor would be performed by people living in the area. And as we know, in an area of this kind there are large pockets of unemployment. In other words, one big benefit from the bill would be to bring work to the unemployed in these areas.

Do you agree with this, Mr. Shishkin?

Mr. SHISHKIN. Yes, I do. And let me say, Mr. Chairman, that in that connection in the present implementation of the economic opportunity program, the so-called poverty program, labor is one of the most active participants. President C. J. Haggerty of the building and construction trades department is working with them and serving on their committee to deal with that particular program of utilizing and training the young people in the community for job opportunities and giving them, providing them with employment. So it is working out very well with our close cooperation both nationally and locally.

Mr. BARRETT. Do you think this would be a great stimulation to those pockets of unemployment throughout the various cities that will participate in the city demonstration program?