

We support the Demonstration Cities Act of 1966, proposed by President Johnson in his special message to Congress on January 26. This is an important and auspicious step in the right direction.

At the same time, we believe that the specific recommendations proposed to carry out this program are unduly modest. Their scope should be enlarged to make possible a truly effective onslaught on urban blight in cities and towns, large and small.

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 believe provision must 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.

The authorization of the 1965 act for urban renewal was inadequate to meet the needs of communities seeking to clear their slums and rejuvenate their blighted and deteriorated areas. We therefore urge that the capital grant authorizations be increased by \$1 billion per year for a 3-year period.

America's urban problems are of foremost importance to the Nation's future welfare and growth. Now is the time to begin with vision and courage, the necessary long-term effort that measures up to their complexity and their size.

Mr. BARRETT. We now have Mr. Dwight Townsend, director, Washington office of the Cooperative League of the United States.

Mr. SHISHKIN. As a word of departure, Mr. Chairman, let me say that I endorse everything Mr. Townsend will provide, I have had an opportunity to examine his statement in advance, and it is a good one, and I hope you will give him all the attention you can.

Mr. BARRETT. Thank you.

Mr. Townsend, we are certainly glad to have you. We have had some of your excellent testimony before. And I am quite sure what you offer today is going to be very helpful.

We will give you a chance to complete your statement, and then if it is agreeable to you, some of the members will want to ask you some questions.

STATEMENT OF DWIGHT D. TOWNSEND, DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON OFFICE, COOPERATIVE LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. TOWNSEND. I have a statement, and I have it in brief form. And I also have a backup statement that I would like to put in the record that will further explain the materials that are contained in it, because some of them are technical in nature.

Mr. BARRETT. That may be done without objection.

Mr. TOWNSEND. I would like to make the morning unanimous by saying also that I have a very great regard for Boris Shishkin. It has been my pleasure to work with him on the board of the National Housing Conference, and other civic activities, and I respect his judgment a great deal.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the views of the Cooperative League of the United States concerning some aspects of the legislation pending before your committee.

We are in favor of the enactment of the four bills before your committee; namely, the demonstration cities bill, the urban development bill, the Housing and Urban Development Amendments of 1966, and the group practices facilities bill. We believe the enactment of these bills will provide necessary additional tools to help meet urgent housing needs and eliminate slum and blighted conditions in our cities. In