

that you will find our members very pleasant here this morning. And they will certainly extend every courtesy they can.

If you desire to read your testimony in full, you may do so, and then we will ask you some questions.

**STATEMENT OF HERBERT J. BINGHAM, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE**

Mr. BINGHAM. To conserve the time of the committee, I would like to file my written testimony and summarize it orally.

Mr. BARRETT. You may do so.

Mr. BINGHAM. I want to testify on behalf of the Tennessee Municipal League, and also the National League of Cities generally in support of both the demonstration cities and the urban development bills.

I can say truthfully, after 20 years of service to municipalities in Tennessee in their intergovernment relations and in seeing that they have capabilities to serve their people that two more important and significant pieces of legislation have never been proposed. And if it is enacted and properly administered, you will deserve the gratitude, and you will have it, for generations of urban Americans in the future.

I particularly want to support the testimony of Mayor Cavanagh of Detroit before your committee on behalf of the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and especially the financial revisions which he suggested; that is, to provide more planning money in the beginning by drawing on the urban renewal planning money, and that you try to persuade the Appropriations Committees to let you provide a contract authority device, so that the entire \$2.3 billion for supplemental grants to pay the local share can be contracted for, and also the \$4,296 million authorization for urban renewal can be contracted for instead of provided on a biennial basis.

I think the President and Secretary Weaver and the urban task force we had recently—some of us thought because it didn't have any city officials on it, it might not produce any good, but it did—it scored triple A for coming up with a concept of a demonstration program in a war-burdened economy when the funds are not available to carry out a full-scale program to rebuild our damaged parts of our cities.

I know you have had some witnesses from our largest cities that have indicated that the funds are entirely too small. But we have been waiting in line 16 years to carry out urban renewal projects, and 15 years to get an interstate highway program built, and we can stand in line on a demonstration basis on this great new program which has been proposed in this bill.

One problem is the method of selection. It has been suggested that there be a competition; or that those most acute situations be selected; or first-come, first-served be the basis of selecting the demonstration cities.

Mr. Chairman, I think there is even a better plan. We dare not deny this program to all of urban America where these problems exist, or you will never pass your bill. That is No. 1.

And secondly, we want geographic distribution, and large and small cities.