

that they have, no matter what the size of it, they will find a ready helper in Elmer George and his staff.

So I am happy to welcome him again before our committee.

Mr. BARRETT. Thank you, Mr. Stephens.

And Mr. George, we certainly are glad to have you here today.

I understand you have a very complete statement, but you have about seven pages that you desire to read, and the other part you are interested in putting in the record?

**STATEMENT OF W. ELMER GEORGE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION**

Mr. GEORGE. Mr. Chairman, that is true. And I recognize that it is getting close to lunch time. And we will follow whatever suggestion you might offer.

Mr. BARRETT. We certainly want to extend every courtesy to you. So if you desire to put part of it in the record and read your first seven pages, you may do so. We will want to ask you a few questions and I am quite sure they will be short.

Mr. GEORGE. Thank you. I can assure you that all this won't be read. It is mostly attachments for consideration by the committee, as you might want to do so.

Mr. BARRETT. Do you desire to put that part in the record?

Mr. GEORGE. I would like to put that first part in the record, and the attachments. And when I get to them I will suggest that those be put into the record, unless there is some questions on them, we will just file them.

Mr. BARRETT. Without objection it is so ordered. You may continue.

Mr. GEORGE. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, I want to express my position and those of the municipalities that I represent for the privilege of appearing before you. We do think that this is an important matter, and one that deserves considerable consideration. We do know that there are a lot of problems and a lot of reservations about this type of legislation, because it is unique. But we think it deserves the most serious consideration. And what we would like to do in this statement, with the indulgence of the committee, rather than touch upon a lot of details in the act itself, and a lot of details in relation to some of the specific projects at the local level, I would like to touch just briefly on some of the causes that we think have been responsible, or for this matter, on urban blight, or urban problems that get so monumental to a point where I think they have reached the proportion of being a national crisis.

With that in mind, if it is permissible to proceed along those lines, I would like to say that I not only represent the Georgia Municipal Association, but I am appearing here as a representative of the National League of Cities. I guess I am the ranking member of the resolutions committee of the National League of Cities, and I am currently the secretary of the community facilities committee of that national organization. So I have worked in these areas of urban problems with many city officials over the country for a number of years.

Second to our national defense and our international commitments, the plight of our cities presents our largest national problem. The