

Nation's economic health and the general welfare of our people depend upon the intelligent and urgent treatment of the ills and deficiencies of our cities.

For many years the problems of cities were swept under the rug or shrugged aside for the sake of political expediency. Our agricultural and other rural programs received priority while our urban areas were exploited as a source of revenue, with little attention being given to our urgent cries for help. And I am not being critical of this, that was a fact of life, I suspect, that all of us recognize, but I would like to submit that this is true.

State governments have contributed to our dilemma due to their rural structure and indifference to city problems. And, of course, Mr. Chairman, we recognize the fact that the recent decision of the Supreme Court and the resulting restricting of our congressional districts, and reapportionment of our State legislatures, are helping to solve this problem. But we have a backlog of deficiencies that have built up in the past as a result of the lack of attention to some of our government problems and our government leadership. In most cases, local revenues have been restricted and the State has been negligent in returning a reasonable share of taxes collected from urban citizens, either in services or grants.

During the past 20 years, the problems of Georgia cities have multiplied so rapidly that they have long since reached crisis proportions. There are many reasons for this, including the following—and these I would like to submit, Mr. Chairman as some of the things that I think not only the Congress but the people of the country ought to understand as they look at the problems, and why they exist, and why they are so critical, and why the cities, out of their own resources and energies, are incapable of treating them in the sense that they should be treated.

1. The success of our agricultural programs which have resulted in higher production yields with less acreage and reduced farm labor.

2. The success of the Herty process for converting slash pine into paper pulp, resulting in the conversion of millions of acres of row crop agricultural lands into pine-free farming. Of course, it does not take people to grow pine trees, very few as compared to the type of agriculture we have had in the South for many years.

3. Improved processing of agricultural food products, transportation, storage, marketing techniques, and, finally, the mechanical household refrigerator—this may seem trite, but it is not—have resulted in relieving the individual citizen and family from personal dependency upon the soil. That is the very basic thing. There are a lot of basic things of this type that a lot of us don't realize, why people really come into the town, and why people used to live in the country. It was because they had to as a matter of livelihood, the individual dependency upon the soil, which is not the case any more, because obviously it is not necessary, because according to the last census only 8 percent of all the people of this country are actually making a living out of farming.

4. General agricultural efficiency and proficiency and the resultant competition has all but eliminated the small farmer, the sharecropper, the tenant farmer, and mass farm labor from the pages of southern history. Today farming is not merely a means of existence or sub-