

as soon as I expected. But I certainly appreciate you coming and being before the committee and explaining the great work being done in Georgia and in the metropolitan area in and around Atlanta.

Mr. Chairman, we had a very fine program sponsored last year by the metropolitan group in Atlanta asking that the members of the Georgia delegation who had districts that bordered on the metropolitan area get together to discuss their mutual problems. Congressman Weltner and Congressman Mackay took the lead in that because they represent the core of the metropolitan area. My district comes within 25 miles of the city limits of Atlanta. And I am very much interested in municipal things. As I said, on the rapid transit bill, it does not directly affect Athens, Ga., but I want to have my constituents get in and out of town when they come to Atlanta.

I appreciate your coming and giving us the benefit of your experience to the committee.

Mr. BENNETT. Thank you, Mr. Stephens.

I want to say that we appreciate your coming to our metropolitan conference last year and giving such a fine speech.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Reuss?

Mr. REUSS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

That was a first-rate statement, Mr. Bennett. And we appreciate it.

I noted particularly what you had to say about the dynamic things Atlanta and the Atlanta region are doing about rapid transit. And I want you to know that this committee is keenly conscious of the need for some breakthroughs in rapid transit. And I would like to get your opinion on a bill that was cosponsored by some 25 Members of the House as well as some 15 Members of the Senate. Your distinguished Atlanta Congressman, Mr. Weltner, is one of the cosponsors. It is now being offered as an amendment to this housing bill. And I will just read it, because it is very short.

This amendment would direct the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development by next year to come back to the Congress with—

a draft program for research, development, and demonstration of new systems of coordinated urban transportation that will carry people and goods within metropolitan areas speedily, safely, without polluting the air, and in a manner that will contribute to sound city planning.

The amendment goes on to say that:

The program shall aim at breakthrough results within 5 years of its approval by the Congress; it shall concern itself with all aspects of new systems of urban transport, for metropolitan areas of various sizes, including technological, financial, economic, governmental, and social aspects; it shall provide national leadership to efforts of States, localities, private industry, universities, and foundations.

I am wondering if you have an opinion as to the desirability of such an amendment.

Mr. BENNETT. I believe it would be very desirable generally. I believe there has been a great lag in research in the field of transportation, particularly urban transportation. I think this is one of the biggest problems the country faces right now, because of the speed with which we are urbanizing, and the way in which population is growing and producing traffic in metropolitan areas.

The way in which the family income throughout the country is going up leads me to believe that there will be more automobiles, more pres-