

Mr. WEINER. At the present time, when our industry is looking for all markets that are needed to satisfy our economic thirst in terms of the expansion of our industry, that we are vitally concerned, as demonstrated by our support for rent supplements, as demonstrated by our concern with the housing of low-income families, which has been increasingly a matter of vital concern to us as an industry, that we are concerned with some of the restrictive practices which the State agencies have employed. We do not condone the fact that in the past there has been the kind of exclusionary practice by some of the people who operated in our industry.

Mr. Rouse, in Columbia, has made a deliberate, concerted effort as a private entrepreneur to provide the broadest cross section.

Mr. ASHLEY. I could not agree more.

Mr. WEINER. Most of us who have been doing this have been doing it also in our own smaller developments.

Mr. ASHLEY. He suggested one-half of 1 percent of all funds be required to be spent for housing construction, research, and development. Does this not appear to be a rather large amount due to the fact that certain research is being conducted on a regular basis by such organizations as the NAHB?

Mr. BLACKMON. I do not believe this is too much. If we are going to accomplish what needs to be accomplished, I think that this is a necessary amount.

It has been proven in days gone by in some of our other Federal programs, such as the Federal highway program, to where this research has contributed a great deal to the improvement and quality of the roads, that are now being constructed. We think that this will have the same effect on housing and not only that, but it will allow products that heretofore have been prohibited to be used that will consequently make a great saving and a great stride toward lowering it.

Mr. ASHLEY. I want to say that I think your association has really made a valuable and marked contribution in the field of research. It is one of the aspects—this aspect is not as widely known as others, but you are certainly to be commended for it. There has been a continuous over-the-years progress and the American homeowner should know about it.

Certain members of the subcommittee suggested that the demonstration city—the requirement for cities—that they rebuild slum areas. It is suggested that this be used for that. Would you or NAHB require such a requirement?

Mr. BLACKMON. Well, of course, our policy is to attack the overall problem of the city, and I would say if a blighted area or slum is the biggest sore in that community, then it would be logical that that be attacked.

Mr. ASHLEY. What you are saying is that there does have to be a broad attack which includes the downtown core areas as well as the so-called slum area which would be largely residential?

Mr. BLACKMON. Right.

Mr. ASHLEY. Thank you very much.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Widnall?

Mr. WIDNALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Blackmon, I can say, after reading the statement and looking at the economic report, you have done your homework.