

Mr. BARRETT. All time has expired and we are going to have as our next witness Mr. Jack McDonald, chairman, Board of County Supervisors, Wayne County, Mich.

STATEMENT OF JACK McDONALD, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS, WAYNE COUNTY, MICH.; ACCOMPANIED BY C. D. WARD, GENERAL COUNSEL

Mr. McDONALD. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Jack McDonald and I am chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Wayne County, Mich., the county seat of which is Detroit. I am appearing here today on behalf of the National Association of Counties, an organization representing county government throughout the country.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACT—TITLE I—GRANTS TO ASSIST IN PLANNED METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT

In our view, President Johnson's message of January 26, transmitting his recommendations on metropolitan planning and the city demonstration program has a singularly underlying theme—the need to mobilize the coordinated resources of the entire metropolitan and urban areas if they are to successfully engage the myriad of problems confronting them. For years, county officials have been struggling to devise procedures, governmental arrangements and programs to meet the increasing demands brought about by urbanization.

The county's problem is compounded by a limited tax base which is often unrealistically encumbered by State restrictions and which does not share the ability to keep pace with the rise of our gross national product as to other taxes, specifically the income tax. Consequently, it is mandatory that counties and other local governments avoid costly duplication of effort by encouraging a cooperative approach to the solution of problems shared by adjacent counties and the cities and towns within their boundaries.

These factors have resulted in the formulation of the following basic guideline and policies which are incorporated in the American county platform, the official policy statement of the National Association of Counties. H.R. 12939 and H.R. 12946 would assist these policy objectives and we urge their enactment.

Certain common problems facing our citizens, such as transportation, planning, water supply and waste-water disposal, civil defense, open space, industrial development and others which transcend local geographical borders, must be approached from an areawide point of view because existing governmental units, acting alone, are not capable of finding equitable and effective solutions.

In order to cope with these problems, the National Association of Counties strongly supports the principle of voluntary cooperation among all levels of government concerned, particularly between county and other local officials. We note the evolution of various voluntary regional cooperation groups consisting of local units of government, whose officials study mutual problems, and in the spirit of the give-and-take of the conference table, evaluate the facts in an endeavor to arrive at sensible, politically acceptable solutions.