

I know there are many metropolitan cities throughout our Nation that have been undergoing a "population explosion" during the last 20 years and especially since World War II. These congested localities are handicapped and distressed in their efforts to meet the needs of crowded conditions pertaining to housing, transportation, schools, and many other municipal improvements and necessities.

A half century ago our Nation was not confronted with the phenomenal exodus of millions of our population into our urban areas which has taken place in recent years. It is estimated that over 70 percent of our population today has been crowded into metropolitan areas. City governments in these large urban concentrations are financially helpless to meet the housing, school, transportation, and other problems facing millions of their citizens. This legislation which you are considering will be a major step to curtail and solve the problem which is expanding in urban centers as the years pass.

I realize your committee has been hearing testimony from mayors and municipal officials concerning their particular necessities, and I want to submit to your committee an outstanding example of a city in my district which would be greatly benefited if the pending legislation were enacted into law.

Gary, Ind., might be an outstanding model as a "logical demonstration city" which needs outside financial aid and supervision to solve its municipal problems. Gary, with a population of a little under 200,000, is the youngest metropolitan city in the United States.

Gary's population started exploding at the beginning of World War II. The largest steel mill in the world is located in the city. We have other steel subsidiaries as well as minor industries pertaining to defense production in the city of Gary. East Chicago, Whiting, and Hammond, three smaller industrial cities join the city of Gary. East Chicago has two major steel mills, Youngstown and Inland, and refineries from major oil companies are located in the Calumet region. All this concentration of defense industries has caused the population explosion in the city of Gary. In the last 20 years the population has risen in Lake County, which is known as the Calumet industrial region, from 240,000 to over 600,000 in 1966. The taxpayers—homeowners especially—are unable to bear the taxload in order to supply the avalanche of municipal needs for workers who have come into this steel-producing area since World War II, and every year since, defense production has increased annually. During World War II publicity and newspaper ads called for workers to come into the Calumet region to work in the steel mills, factories, refineries, and other industries in order to meet the national defense effort.

I mention these facts in order to bring out how necessary it is for legislation of this type to be passed. In order to solve the urban problems that face areas like the Calumet region of Indiana.

In one of President Johnson's recent speeches, he mentioned the "crowded miles of inadequate dwellings—poorly maintained, and frequently overpriced" as one of the prime reasons for the Federal Government to make an attack on blight and slum areas. The city of Gary, especially, has been spending money and going in debt to "meet the population explosion" to provide adequate housing and eliminate slums, provide school buildings and other facilities for our overcrowded youth population. If we cannot meet this challenge, areas