

STATEMENT OF HON. JOSEPH W. BARR, JR., MAYOR OF OIL CITY, PA., ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES AND THE PENNSYLVANIA LEAGUE OF CITIES; ACCOMPANIED BY DONALD A. SLATER, LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

Mr. BARR. Mr. Chairman, and Mr. Johnson, I appreciate your over-generous remarks. I will try to live up to the standard you have apparently set for me.

I am very much appreciative of having Congressman Johnson introduce me here. It is a real honor to have him do it. I will say sincerely, in answer to you, Mr. Johnson, we are very proud of the work you are doing for us and for the Nation in general.

Mr. BARRETT. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and thank you, Mr. Johnson.

Now, Mr. Mayor, we certainly want you to feel at home here. We want you to feel part of this big family.

If you desire to complete your statement before we ask you questions, you may do so, and if you choose to take any other approach, whatever you decide we will certainly be agreeable to.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Chairman, I have prepared some remarks which I would appreciate having an opportunity to present, and then, of course, I will be glad to answer any questions.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Mayor, before you start, I note that you have an associate with you. In the event that he might be requested to answer a question, would you be kind enough to introduce him for the record.

Mr. BARR. Yes. I have with me Mr. Donald A. Slater, who is the legislative representative for the National League of Cities here in Washington.

Mr. BARRETT. Thank you.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Joseph W. Barr, Jr., mayor of the city of Oil City of Pennsylvania. It was my privilege to serve recently as president of the Pennsylvania League of Cities. I continue to serve these 52 Pennsylvania cities as chairman of the League's Committee on Community Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations—I have also served as chairman of the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations of the National League of Cities, an organization of some 13,500 municipal governments of all sizes. I appear before you today as a representative of both of these municipal organizations, and on behalf of both of them I wish to endorse the legislation pending before you, the Demonstration Cities Act of 1966 and the Urban Development Act of 1966. From each of these organizations I possess firm authorization to do this. We are, indeed, in wholehearted concurrence with the objectives of both bills.

In the President's message on cities, and in the testimony on the legislation by Secretary Weaver, Mayor Cavanagh, and the other distinguished witnesses you have heard the nature of the problems besetting urban areas described both precisely and eloquently. This testimony has urged the point that the techniques prescribed by the legislation are relevant to the major metropolitan centers and the small cities as well.

The two bills are singular in their comprehensiveness and administrative arrangements, and constitute by far the most ambitious and far