

ward looking, and, in my judgment, unworthy of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

I find, for example, on pages 2 and 3 of your statement that you reject the contention that our American cities lack adequate resources to deal effectively with the critical problems facing them. On page 3 you say: "The roundabout route of funds from cities to Federal Government, and after deduction of a Federal handling charge and imposition of Federal controls, back to the city is not necessary. Instead, cities can, through effective organization and action, get far more direct access to the funds necessary for local progress."

That is your statement.

Frankly, sir, I find it incredible that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce does not recognize that our central cities are in desperate condition, they they have pressed the property tax to the limit, and that the help of the Federal Government is necessary to use its progressive system of taxation to bear some of the burden of helping our cities. I just cannot believe that what is common knowledge throughout the United States escapes the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

On page 4, instead of addressing yourselves to the problems of Federal and local coordination, you dismiss the local coordinator as a commissar or czar, implying that those behind it are using some Russian sort of action.

You mention that the chairman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce task force on the problem of cities is Mr. Erwin D. Canham, editor in chief of the Christian Science Monitor. Has Mr. Canham seen the testimony that you have presented here this morning, and does he approve it?

Mr. STEINER. No; he has not. I believe he is on a trip abroad. But I think he would agree that it is consistent with the policies of the national chamber in which he has been a participant.

Mr. REUSS, may I respond to your—

Mr. REUSS. Yes; but first, Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that space be reserved at this point in the record so that Mr. Canham can indicate whether he approves or repudiates the position in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce statement before the committee this morning.

Mr. BARRETT. Without objection so ordered.

(The information referred to follows:)

TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY,
Washington, D.C., March 17, 1966.

HON. WILLIAM A. BARRETT,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Housing, Committee on Banking and Currency,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. BARRETT: This is in response to the request of your subcommittee that I provide my observations on testimony delivered on March 10, 1966, by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States on H.R. 12341.

The subcommittee presumably made this request because I am chairman of the Task Force on Economic Growth and Opportunity, a group of over 100 chief executives of major American corporations invited by the national chamber to conduct serious studies of major domestic social and economic problems. The national chamber's statement on H.R. 12341 described the task force and outlined the study of poverty, which the task force is now completing, and the study of cities, which the task force is now beginning.

While the national chamber's testimony on H.R. 12341 seems to me to be consistent with the relevant policies of the organization, it would be entirely inap-