

conomic growth, the national chamber has contributed to efforts to help all Americans live better. And by critically evaluating social and economic legislation and pointing to weaknesses and dangers where they exist, the national chamber performs a significant service to the Nation. I point this out simply to correct a mistaken impression voiced by people who are not fully aware of the national chamber's past and present programs and positions and who judge the organization solely on the basis of its stand on a given issue or legislative proposal.

I sincerely hope you can make this letter a part of the record so that the important distinction in the relationship between myself and the Task Force on Economic Growth and Opportunity and the Chamber of Commerce of the United States will be clear to all who read the hearings.

Sincerely,

ERWIN D. CANHAM.

Mr. REUSS. Now, would you comment, sir?

Mr. STEINER. Mr. Reuss, you have indicated that you believe that the problems of cities have escaped the national chamber. We do not believe that this is true. We have been students of the problems of cities for a very long time.

Mr. REUSS. I was simply referring to your testimony here this morning, the portion that I read, which takes the position that the cities have adequate tax resources within their borders, and the Federal Government has no helpful role to play.

Mr. STEINER. There are two important points which might be made in this regard.

First is the question of where the Federal Government gets the money to supply the subsidies that are proposed. Our conclusions are that, as we have indicated, the Federal Government gets the money from the same sources that the local governments get the money, that is, from the people.

Mr. REUSS. If I may interrupt you there, that is why I cannot really believe that you speak for the U.S. Chamber. Surely, the U.S. Chamber knows that the reason the Federal Government is needed in the picture is that wealthy people—like U.S. Chamber of Commerce members—live in the suburbs, and do not contribute to the well-being of the central cities, and that is why the Federal Government, with its progressive system of taxation, has a necessary role to play. I just cannot believe that you have gone that far back—to President McKinley.

Mr. STEINER. I wish to respond to the assumptions you have made, Mr. Reuss.

If you will see on the first page of our testimony, the statement indicates the number of businesses underlined that are represented by the national chamber. There are 3,900 business organizations with an underlying membership of 4,300,000 businessmen in 50 States. I do not think the record will show that there are this many wealthy businessmen living in suburbs. The national chamber is generally representative of the whole business community, and this includes many small businesses as well as larger businesses.

Mr. REUSS. My point, sir, is that I do not believe that the large number of those wealthy businessmen living in suburbs who are members of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce agree with your statement here this morning. That is why I want Mr. Canham to get on the record here.

Let me ask you this. Your title is "construction industry manager of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce"?

Mr. STEINER. Yes.