

even though we do not happen to agree with them, even though we think you may be 100 percent wrong.

I think it is healthy when you do come before the committee and do present your different philosophies. So I will certainly commend you for it.

On the other hand, I say to you, as one person who personally had to struggle on the local level as a mayor of a fairly substantial city in Michigan with some of the problems here, I do not think your solutions would work. I am one who is convinced today that the Federal Government does have a role in these problems. However, I have admiration for your courage and admiration for the manner in which you presented your statement.

Mr. STEINER. Thank you.

Mr. BARRETT. All time has expired. Thank you very much for you gentlemen coming here this morning and making your statement.

Mr. STEINER. Thank you.

Mr. BARRETT. Our next witness will be our distinguished colleague from the great State of California and a member of the Committee on Banking and Currency, Congressman Burt Talcott. Come right up and we will hear your statement.

STATEMENT OF HON. BURT L. TALCOTT, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. TALCOTT. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am grateful for the opportunity to present this statement to the Housing Subcommittee. I have introduced H.R. 7434, a rather special, but important, bill to provide that a majority of the community approve an urban renewal project before it is begun.

There are many compelling, general, and special reasons for such an amendment to the Housing Act of 1949. I intend to present only a few today.

I am not opposed to the principle of urban renewal. We need to renew our dilapidated urban areas—this is a constant task which should concern and involve every citizen and segment of the community. Blighted areas should be eradicated. Deterioration should be stemmed. One section of our environment cannot be permitted to unnecessarily spoil another. But we must also preserve functional and pleasant residential, business, and industrial areas.

These goals cannot be accomplished without cooperation and some coordination. Urban renewal can provide a vehicle otherwise unavailable—especially when the various private property owners in a substandard section cannot, or will not, get together—in a common effort for the public necessity.

But the urban renewal project must fit and suit the community. Bureaucrats in Washington, far removed from the persons involved, unknowledgeable about the local habits, attitudes, and wishes should not be making the basic decisions.

Individual persons are the most important ingredient of a community. Urban renewal must deal primarily with people—not just with slums, buildings, and property.

Urban renewal must be personal, compassionate—but unfortunately, it has not always been.