

in themselves as children of God, and so that they have a responsibility to and a need for God. All people need a belief in the loving God, and none more than the unfortunate.

In some communities such as La Porte and Logansport, urban renewal has been defeated when the voters have put pressures on the city council. However, since in some municipalities the city leaders are not as responsive to the wishes of the people, a referendum is necessary to make clear whether the people approve and authorize such activities.

We have additional evidence to support your bill if you desire it.

Sincerely,

CLAUDE H. GODDARD.

Mr. Chairman, the evidence proves the need for improved urban renewal procedures. The whole urban renewal program will be immeasurably strengthened by passage of my bill, H.R. 7434, providing for a public referendum for urban renewal projects. I urge the support of your subcommittee. Thank you.

Mr. BARNETT. Thank you, Mr. Talcott.

The next witness will be Mr. Ed Butler, chairman of the Lenders Committee, National Home Improvement Council; accompanied by Thomas C. Brickle, legislative representative, National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association.

Please come forward, please. Please feel at home here. We are hoping that we can move quickly this morning and give you a chance to read your statement through and then the members may want to question you.

STATEMENT OF E. T. BUTLER, VICE PRESIDENT OF INVESTORS SYNDICATE CREDIT CORP., MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL LENDERS COMMITTEE; ACCOMPANIED BY THOMAS C. BRICKLE, LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE, NATIONAL LUMBER & BUILDING MATERIAL DEALERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. BUTLER. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am E. T. Butler, vice president of Investors Syndicate Credit Corp., Minneapolis, Minn., and I am speaking for the Lenders Committee of the National Home Improvement Council, of which I am chairman.

Why public interest will be served by amending title I of FHA program: Banks, savings and loan associations, and other financial institutions have made more than 28 million home improvement loans under the FHA program. Thirty years of experience leaves undebatable the positive benefit to the social and economic welfare of our country of this particular Government-sponsored program. For those 30 years title I has been the standard against which all other home improvement financing plans have been measured. Title I, however, has failed to keep pace with changing economic conditions. The cost to the borrower is the same as that set by law in 1934, and during this interim the cost of living and the cost of doing business has increased manifold. For 10 years there have been no changes in title I in the maximum amount of loan available or the maximum term of the loan and the rapidly declining use of title I is shown in the following table: