

It has been the intention and program of the mayor, Thomas G. Currigan, to try to remove those blight situations. This is one of the reasons why we have an urban renewal project in the city and county of Denver.

It is my great pleasure to introduce to you the man who has worked hard for housing throughout the many years he has been in public service, the Honorable Thomas Currigan, mayor of the city and county of Denver.

Mr. BARRETT. Thank you, Mr. Rogers.

You may proceed, Mr. Mayor.

STATEMENT OF HON. THOMAS G. CURRIGAN, MAYOR, CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, COLO.

Mr. CURRIGAN. Thank you very much.

I want to express my appreciation to our esteemed Congressman, and certainly a friend to everybody in our community, not only for the very complimentary introduction, but the tremendous job he has done in representing the people of Denver for many, many years.

Let me say to you, Mr. Chairman, when you made a comment about making yourself at home—you have done an excellent job of doing this ever since I had the pleasure of meeting you in the elevator some 15 or 25 minutes ago.

My name is Thomas G. Currigan, and I have the privilege of serving as mayor of the city and county of Denver, the capital city of Colorado.

I am grateful to you for affording me the opportunity of appearing before you, and to Denver's own distinguished Representative, the Honorable Byron G. Rogers, for interceding with the committee on my behalf. I am here in support of H.R. 12341, the Demonstration Cities Act of 1966.

Recognizing the tight time schedule under which the committee is operating and the fact that you have already heard from representatives of various city-oriented groups and mayors of several American cities, I will keep my remarks relatively brief.

It is of great importance to me and the city I represent and to other mayors of western cities for you to be advised that western cities, though younger in years than their eastern counterparts, also have problems.

These problems challenge the ingenuity of every American who is concerned with the environments now existing in our always-growing urban centers. It matters not whether these urban centers are in the eastern or western section of our great Nation, whether these urban centers are relatively old or comparatively new. The problems exist and must be resolved. Many times we feel that, because of the distance between the West and Washington, our problems appear to you to be disproportionately small. We have full confidence, however, that this committee, with its long history and tradition of championing progressive urban legislation will hear and heed the voices from the West.

I recognize full well that many of the older eastern and midwestern cities are in critical need of the assistance the Demonstration Cities Act can give them to launch a massive attack on slum areas that have been in existence for many, many years. Denver has just recently celebrated