

The enactment of the Demonstration Cities Act reemphasizes the need for and the value of internally coordinated governmental programs and also governmental with nongovernmental programs, all aimed toward the goal of making the city a better place in which to live, work, and to be educated. The community renewal program was the third major step in developing a renewal program for a city. Under the Housing Act of 1949, renewal was conceived with the project concept, later developed into general neighborhood renewal plans, and matured with the community renewal program. This overall program in Hartford analyzed the needs of the city for the next 20-year period, inventoried its present and projected resources to meet these needs, and then formulated an action program.

In addition to an action program which will liberate the captive and confined citizens of the core city from poverty, fear, prejudice, and a sense of hopelessness, we further stress another key element in the demonstration cities program—metropolis. Break down the old-fashioned, imaginary, artificial, and still existent political barriers which separate city from suburb and suburb from the village. Eradicate these old-fashioned barriers just as we must eradicate social, human, and physical problems. Solving the problems within the borders of the core city calls for consideration and treatment of the core city and the suburb and the village as one neighborhood, large though it may be. A part of the total renewal objective must be to show that the city can no longer be used often to the point of being abused, by the suburb and village. While cities as focal points of business and social activity will always remain, city governments have ringed the core of our society with an obsolete band of archaic and inadequate laws.

We believe that a spirit of hope, not hopelessness; of action, not inaction; of being positive and not being negative permeates this testimony. We believe that the rebirth of the core city is neither a catchy phrase nor a figment of a mayor's imagination. We believe that now more than ever before, city government, the business community, and the social action agencies are in step marching forward together, with the same objectives, the same vision, and in the same voice.

I can summarize in one word the hopes, aspirations and the determination of the whole city of Hartford—and I would add here, all cities in our Nation—to totally renew themselves in terms of physical and human renewal. That one word is "commitment." By commitment I mean abandoning the old, rigid ideas and concepts of the past and even the present, and substituting bold and creative approaches to city government. By commitment I mean moving with and adapting to the times as they change as for example aggressively participating in all State and Federal legislation for cities and especially through vigorous participation in the multiple programs under the new Department of Housing and Urban Development.

By commitment I mean taking the bold offensive against the serious problems which plague our cities and in protecting the rights of all citizens. By commitment I mean a full dedication toward achieving a better city. By commitment I mean new chances, crossing uncertain channels, and even walking the tightrope such as promoting and assisting private enterprise in rebuilding the city, and this includes the creation of civic and cultural centers. By commitment I mean sum-