

Resolved by the American Legion in national convention assembled in Portland, Oreg., August 24-26, 1965, That section 203(b) (2) of the National Housing Act, as amended, by the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965, be further amended to eliminate that provision which bars benefits under the VA housing program from obtaining FHA insured veteran home loans.

[Telegram]

CHICOPEE, MASS., March 2, 1966.

HON. WM. H. BARRETT,
Chairman of the House Banking and Currency Committee, Subcommittee on Housing, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.:

The city of Chicopee, Mass., desires to be recorded favoring enactment of the Demonstration Cities Act of 1966. Chicopee is an old industrial city of 60,000 people divided into five distinct sections through immigration, sociological, ethnic, and economic impacts and 19th century factory-owned housing for millhands.

We urge enactment of this program as a desirable opportunity to attack and solve vital areas of concern to our people, their health, environment, and opportunity, both economically and culturally.

RICHARD H. DEMERS,
Mayor, City of Chicopee.

STATEMENT BY JAMES J. FLYNN, JR., MAYOR OF PERTH AMBOY, N.J., TO HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Mr. Chairman, I urge that Perth Amboy be selected as a demonstration city under the administration's proposed legislation.

I believe that Perth Amboy would be ideal to prove the purposes of the program advocated by the administration. While our city is still strong and secure, our population has decreased and has dropped to an estimated 34,000 from about 45,000.

Our business district, which consists of older buildings, has suffered the dilemma of every city surrounded by shopping centers. Our young people, who do not find it necessary to reside near the great industries in our city, have moved to the suburbs and we have been struggling.

We have justifiable pride in Perth Amboy: the city has a fine hospital that serves the entire area. We have a YMCA, a YMHA, a Salvation Army facility, and 48 churches of every denomination.

We have a good public school system, seven parochial schools, and a parochial high school.

We have a boardwalk and waterfront recreation area, a yacht club, and a marina.

We are a center of for professional activities—medical legal—used by the entire Raritan Bay area.

A respected and successful newspaper serves the area.

Our banks and savings and loan facilities have grown steadily.

Our industries are prosperous and employ over 12,000 persons. They are diversified and include some of the most renown names in America.

We are proud of Perth Amboy, which was founded 302 years ago on the shore of Raritan Bay. We had a great influx of heavy industries—coal, copper, lead, and others. Until 1914, many people came from Europe and built modest homes within walking distance of the plants.

But Perth Amboy needs help, and the Federal Government can provide some of that aid.

Perth Amboy needs access roads, middle-income housing, a rebuilding of the downtown business district, and the elimination of many substandard business and residential structures. In addition, we have long-range plans for establishing a public works center, a new municipal building, a cultural center, and a new police headquarters.

Mr. Chairman, if Perth Amboy is selected as one of the 70 demonstration cities in the Nation, some of these important projects will be converted from hope to reality.