

And if they are, not only will the city of Perth Amboy benefit, but more important, its people, who are looking forward to a great era of resurgence, progress, and achievement.

I request that this statement be included in the official hearings of this subcommittee.

CITY OF CAMDEN, April 6, 1966.

HON. WILLIAM T. CAHILL,
*Congressman, First District,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN CAHILL: I do wish to take this opportunity, in accordance with your letter of March 30, to submit a statement for possible consideration to the House committee as stated in your letter.

With regard to the demonstration cities project, reports indicate that preferred cities are to be given the assistance. This, if true, would be against the grain of basic, sound American principles. If funds are to be available, the principle of equal opportunity should apply. I am opposed to the selection of municipalities for Federal aid on any basis that does not give to all the opportunity to apply.

I believe the times has come for any city applying for aid to list all aid previously received from the Federal Government. I have the impression that a revelation of funds received would indicate that some cities have already received preferred treatment and are still clamoring to be at the top of the list for new money.

Camden will welcome the opportunity to compete on any fair basis for Federal help to win the battle against slums, blight, and decay.

I have a proposal to submit for the committee's consideration, as follows:

Allow cities to borrow funds from the Federal Government, making provision for the delay of payment of principal for a period of 10 years or more. The city would pay the interest on the loan. If foreign nations can be the direct recipients of loans from the United States, I believe our cities are a better risk. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this idea further. Direct loans rather than grants will eliminate much loss of time and prove to be far more valuable.

Cordially yours,

ALFRED R. PIERCE, *Mayor.*

Mr. BARRETT. Without objection, we will be in recess until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

(Whereupon, at 12:45 p.m., the subcommittee adjourned; to reconvene at 10 a.m., Tuesday, March 15, 1966.)