

DEMONSTRATION CITIES AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1966

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to recess, at 10 a.m., in room 2128, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. William A. Barrett (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Barrett, Mrs. Sullivan, Moorhead, Reuss, Widnall, Fino, and Mrs. Dwyer.

Mr. BARRETT. The committee will come to order, please.

This morning our first witness will be the Honorable Ralph S. Locher, mayor of Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Mayor, would you come to the witness stand, please?

Mr. Mayor, we hope we can give you a comfortable feeling this morning, and we want you to feel at home.

I do want to say for the record that Charlie Vanik, one of our outstanding Congressmen, a very capable and knowledgeable Member of Congress, has been speaking very highly about you, and the splendid job you have done as the mayor of Cleveland.

Mr. Mayor, if you desire to read your statement in full before any questions are asked, you may do so—whatever procedure you are desirous of following, we would be glad to abide by.

STATEMENT OF HON. RALPH S. LOCHER, MAYOR OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

Mr. LOCHER. I would prefer that, Mr. Chairman.

I want to reciprocate, and state the high esteem and regard with which we hold Charlie Vanik. I am one of his constituents. We frequently look to him for advice and counsel and help. And I appreciate the fine things that he has said about me, and I want to return them manifold.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Ralph S. Locher, and I am mayor of the city of Cleveland. It is an honor to be invited to appear before this committee to speak for the people of the city of Cleveland in support of H.R. 12341, the Demonstrations Cities Act of 1966.

Our view, our comments, and our criticisms are constructively offered, intended to improve the effectiveness of the proposed program.

May I start by saying, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, that this bill is not a cure-all. It will not do away with all the ills and prejudices which permeate our urban society today. How-