

As an example, urban renewal programs throughout the Nation have already created a backlog of applications in excess of \$800 million. Unless this longjam of pending urban renewal projects is broken, demonstration programs involving urban renewal would be held up for well over a year while awaiting the grant needed to start this program. Therefore, unless time limitations on urban renewal capital grants authorized in the act of 1965 are lifted, the torrent of demand for demonstration programs involving urban renewal will create an even greater logjam of projects pending.

I would further suggest that where existing Federal aid programs are not available, either for lack of funds or for any reason, then the Demonstration Cities Act should provide the support necessary to meet its contemplated objectives out of its own funds. This would enable a community to plan a demonstration project with reasonable assurance that funds for the essential elements of the plan would be available when needed and, furthermore, that funds for other worthwhile projects in nondemonstration cities would not be depleted.

It becomes very clear and very obvious that the \$2.3 billion suggested by the President will not meet the total needs of the demonstration cities program without exhausting funds available for existing programs. The overall goals of a great society cannot be reached if the price of success in one area is failure in others.

It is also my opinion that the funds should be made available on contract authority upon passage of this law, thereby assuring that funds will be available over the life of the program. All of you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, must know, as I know, that the vast and necessary program you are considering will not be an overnight project but one which will take years of careful cultivation before it bears fruit.

Mr. Chairman, I sincerely hope that this committee and the Congress will give this legislation your most careful consideration and wholehearted support. Our cities are very resilient creatures. They will survive. That is not the question. The question is whether this Nation can afford to allow its cities—the nerve centers of our civilization—to survive merely as rundown pockets of poverty in this land of plenty or whether we will combine our efforts to recreate them as the vibrant and vital centers of our great society. The utmost effort will be required—the cost will be high. But, gentlemen, if we are to succeed in creating a great society, we can do no less.

Mr. Chairman, again, thanks for this opportunity to share with you some of my views concerning the Demonstrations Cities Act.

Thank you.

Mr. BARRETT. Thank you, Mayor Locher. Yours is a very fine statement. I am very much interested in your reference on page 4 to a Federal coordinator in Cleveland.

I first want to ask you another question, and come back to this question, and give you a chance to look it over.

Mr. Mayor, your statement on page 1 is calling attention to the members that you are well aware of the vast commitments the United States has undertaken to contain communism and to maintain peace in the world “to open the new frontier of outer space, to create a great society here at home.”