

honorable committee—the Demonstration Cities Act, the Urban Development Act, and the numerous corrective amendments contained in H.R. 13064.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to this important subcommittee to permit our views to be made known.

With me today are Edward J. Lynett, Jr., editor and copublisher of one of the Nation's outstanding newspapers—the Scranton Times, who is serving as chairman of our demonstration cities task force; the president of the Board of Commissioners for Lackawanna County wherein Scranton is county seat—Patrick J. Mellody; and Bernard B. Blier, veteran community development official who is with the city planning commission and the Scranton Redevelopment Authority.

You have already heard much testimony from the experts on the technical amendments and I am sure that the people over at the new Department of Housing and Urban Development will be in constant liaison on this subject.

So in inverse order, I would like to move on to the new Urban Development Act of 1966.

After reading this bill, I was deeply impressed by the language of the first title, "Grants To Assist in Planning Metropolitan Development."

There is no area in Federal and State legislation and Government assistance that is so neglected as the no-man's land of metropolitan programming.

Enactment of this title alone will accomplish much in all urban districts—the large and the small—toward bringing together all of our resources and all of our potential—both public and private.

Title IV, "Grants for Urban Information Centers," to me at least, represents a companion program so that metropolitan areas can coordinate not only the essential planning process but also they will be able to bring together and utilize vital information so necessary in approaching and solving our urban problems.

Also, I believe that in the formation of local or regional action groups to implement these beneficial Federal programs, direct recognition of the political structure elected by the people should be insisted upon by the Congress.

My interpretation of your definition of a "metropolitan area agency" appears to assure that type of recognition.

In the interest of brevity, I would like to recommend the early approval of the Demonstration Cities Act of 1966 without going into any major details of the program which have been more than adequately supported by a host of other witnesses.

My associates here from Scranton and Lackawanna County, Pa., join me in complimenting President Johnson for placing before the Congress this significant urban development program.

Likewise, we commend the House of Representatives and your subcommittee for conducting hearings so early in the session and to the dimension which you have gone to establish public and individual attitudes on this demonstration program.

I join my fellow Pennsylvanian, Mayor John W. Barr, Jr., of Oil City, and former president of our State's league of cities organization, in expressing our general support of the program but also con-