

curring with his observation before this committee last week. "Comprehensiveness in attack on the total problem has not always been a notable characteristic of metropolitan programs in the past, often to the detriment of many of these programs."

As chief executive of a city which has more than a dozen urban renewal programs—completed, in execution, and in planning—a renewal-in-depth approach—not mastered by other comparative cities in the Nation, I know the significance of a direct, comprehensive attack on blight as envisioned by the President.

If Scranton is chosen as one of the selected cities, it is in immediate position to meet all of the eight eligibility requirements suggested in section 4.

But as broad as these necessary qualifications are in their intent, Scranton and other communities surrounding it are able to offer another field where comprehensive and coordinated renewal must take place.

It is the blight which has visited our communities resulting from a heritage of coal mining—the mine subsidence problem.

Those Members of the Congress who know the conditions whereof and whatof I speak, I am sure, will agree that only through such a program as the Demonstration Cities Act can our homeowners and rental residents regain the freedom from mine caving and again enjoy a full real estate equity for which they worked so hard.

In your committee deliberations, I submit to you, a committee determination should be made that the current provisions of the bill are sufficient to remove the historic blight from our homes and regain full surface stabilization so that no one in the future should fear for his very life.

If you believe that the language of this act should be more adequate to cover the situations which I have listed, then, I hope that this necessary new language is inserted in the bill's text.

Communities such as Scranton are only asking that the tools and the finances be made available by the Federal Government to permit the local communities to regain their deserved place in a future of clean air, stable surfaces, and a good living environment enhanced by sound property rehabilitation programs.

In closing, I want to thank the chairman and all the members of the committee on behalf of my associates and myself. I hope that you will speed your consideration of this important urban development legislation and that eligible cities will be in position to utilize it in the very near future.

I thank you.

Mr. BARRETT. Thank you, Mayor Walsh, for coming down here and presenting an outstanding statement.

I just want to tell you, you are not only an excellent mayor, but a very handsome gentleman. Thank you.

Mr. WALSH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Whereupon, at 11:55 a.m., the subcommittee adjourned, to reconvene at 10 a.m., Wednesday, March 16, 1966.)