

to move ahead on their goals of improvement and community development.

Mr. BARRETT. Thank you, Mr. Candeb, for a very splendid statement.

It is very constructive and very informative.

I do not have any questions to ask you but I do want to thank you for your fine statement in support of the legislation. Your splendid background and years of experience adds a great deal to help this bill get accepted by both sides.

Mr. CANDEUB. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Widnall.

Mr. WIDNALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Candeb, thank you for a very constructive statement and I am sorry I was called out to the telephone at the time you were introduced. I want to comment on your background and experience and the fact that you bring much to these hearings.

On the question of rehabilitation, do you think enough thought and enough effort has been given to this phase of the activity?

Mr. CANDEUB. Well, there have been many attempts made in the past to introduce rehabilitation, first in the extension of the concept of redevelopment to urban renewal, of course, in 1954, and, secondly, in the directives given to the FHA, and to the provisions to furnish assistance to individual homeowners, and thirdly, in the increased emphasis in the workable programs for further housing codes, and code enforcement activities.

This, of course, is the background for the emphasis given in the act to rehabilitation as a major concept in terms of helping people help themselves.

However, the experience with rehabilitation in the past, frankly, has not been very good and despite the directives coming out of Washington, the actual working experience at the local level has been rather frustrating.

Possibly, with the increase in social interest in this act, and possibly through the availability of a Federal coordinator, there might be a better base to work from in the communities in terms of the leverage of funds, leverage of staff availability, and the effectiveness as it may turn out—we hope effectiveness—of the coordinator.

Mr. WIDNALL. From your own experience, what has been the frustration in connection with using the existing law in the rehabilitation and modernization of homes?

Mr. CANDEUB. Well, we have recommended rehabilitation in many renewal projects and our experience is that we have to then show the feasibility of rehabilitation to a degree that would warrant the FHA to go along with us in the locality and give us their approval.

In virtually every instance that I can recall, the initial FHA reaction has been negative, and this means that in many cases, you are effectively discouraged from proposing rehabilitation because it does mean quite extensive meetings and review and, in large measures, even after the rehabilitation proposal is accepted and incorporated in the renewal project, there is a real question as to whether or not it will be effective when the individual homeowners go to the FHA for improvement funds. The experience has really been quite discouraging although we