

Everyone on our committee has a great deal of respect for your ability. We certainly appreciate your advice because of your long experience in the Senate and also in the House.

If you desire to complete your statement, or if you desire to read part of it, then put it into the record, I am quite sure the committee will abide by whatever you choose to do.

**STATEMENT OF HON. CLAUDE PEPPER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

Mr. PEPPER. Mr. Chairman, I thank you very much for your kind words.

You know I am delighted to be here before you, my old colleagues on this distinguished committee. That was a very happy experience for me, the 2 years that I was privileged to serve with you on this great committee. You have done great work in the service of our country and I know you are going to continue to do that.

This bill that you have before you today is another evidence of the important contribution that this committee is making to our country.

You do have a little bit more space surroundings than we enjoyed in our old committee room. It is very lovely and very fitting to the dignity and importance of this committee.

I just have a relatively short statement here, Mr. Chairman, which I will read if I may.

Mr. Chairman, I am glad to have this opportunity to register my fervent support of the legislation being considered by this Subcommittee on Housing.

I have long been an advocate of forward-looking housing programs and I have consequently introduced four bills, H.R. 13278, H.R. 13279, H.R. 13280, and H.R. 13281, which are identical to those put forward by the administration to encourage a new surge of urban revival in our Nation.

First on the list is the imaginative Demonstration Cities Act of 1966. Cities have always represented the citadel of culture and human accomplishment, but America has now been witnessing the tragic results of insufficient care and concern for these monuments of American creativity. Decay of inner city tenements, the exodus of middle-income families and the steady pollution of air and water are only a few of the problems our urban areas are facing.

They cannot solve these problems alone. Billions of dollars and much human talent are needed. And it will demand the cooperation of our Federal Government and our States, as well as the cities themselves, to begin the task of making the quality of life in our cities commensurate with our material abundance.

Therefore, the proposal for Federal grants to cities of 90 percent of planning costs and 80 percent of costs for demonstration projects is a greatly needed first step in this effort.

The concept of the demonstration project is sound.

It stresses the provision of educational and social service as well as physical renewal. The city's plans must pay adequate attention to the supply of housing of low and moderate cost. And in light of the