

practical efficiency of the profession. AIA members now number about 24,000 and include 95 percent of the architectural firms in this country. Although a small profession in number, we have a great role to play as builders of America's cities.

I would like to limit my remarks this morning to specific sections of legislation, introduced by Representatives Patman, Barrett, and others, entitled "Demonstration Cities Act of 1966" (H.R. 12341 and H.R. 12342), the "Urban Development Act" (H.R. 12939 and H.R. 12946), and the "Housing and Urban Development Amendments of 1966" (H.R. 13064 and H.R. 13065).

I. DEMONSTRATION CITIES ACT OF 1966

FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

Under the heading "Findings and Declaration of Purpose" the Demonstration Cities Act begins:

The Congress hereby finds and declares that improving the quality of urban life is the most critical domestic problem facing the United States.

We could not agree more. The American Institute of Architects has repeated over and over again that some aspects of urban life are sad indeed.

We amplify this statement. I would be happy to read that if the committee would like me to. May I have your advice on that point?

Mr. BARRETT. You may.

Mr. KETCHUM. Shall I proceed?

Mr. BARRETT. You may read it if you so desire. You may read the entire statement.

Mr. KETCHUM. The pattern is essentially the same in the great majority of our towns and cities. The approaches to the city are defaced by billboards, garish store-front signs, utility poles, overhead wires, junkyards, and blighted business buildings. Downtown is usually congested, rundown, and may already have been dissected by a badly located highway. The waterfront, potentially a place for recreation, is littered with junk and industrial debris.

Too often, that part of the suburbs available to medium-income residents is devoid of interest and vitality. Most suburban shopping centers are squat islands in a sea of asphalt. In many things, large and small, there is a blindness to the good design and planning necessary to improve urban living.

Why should the Nation, with the most advanced technology, the highest living standard, the best program for mass education, the most successful political system, and the highest degree of ingenuity in solving scientific problems make such a mess of its physical environment?

It is not that we do not know how to cope with community growth. We have a rich and valid heritage in community design. Thomas Jefferson, our third President and an architect, designed not only Monticello and the campus of the University of Virginia but several towns; he also made a design for the city of Washington before L'Enfant did, and he proposed a national system of roads and canals. William Penn's original design for Philadelphia was strong enough to guide the orderly development and redevelopment of the city to