

**STATEMENT OF HON. CHARLES A. VANIK, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OHIO**

Mr. VANIK. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I appreciate your generous treatment.

At this time, I am not going to restate the housing needs and problems which plague our cities. I think that these needs have been repetitiously brought to the committee by this time. We are all aware of them.

I want you to know, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, that my interest in this total problem has not waned simply because I moved to another committee. My interests have always remained constant in this vital area of the rehabilitation and preservation of our cities.

First of all, just let me state that I support in principle the legislation of the Demonstration Cities Act.

Without going into the specific details, I want to talk about some other things that I think are important to the committee. I hope your committee can consider these suggestions at the time that you write up the Demonstration Cities Act.

In Cleveland we have been anticipating the demonstration cities program. Within urban renewal and without, we are endeavoring to rehabilitate our city. Citizen interest is very keen in this matter. I might say in fairness to the people involved, that citizen interest is, in my opinion, far ahead of Government cooperation and leadership. It is amazing how many people come from the central areas of the city who say they want to live there. They want the neighborhoods made decent so they can stay there. They want to live in close proximity to the center of the city and its cultural life. This is not myth. It is something that has been revealed time and time again.

At the outset that there is not any question in my mind but that our handling of the urban renewal program, both nationally and locally, has not eliminated the blight we thought would be eliminated by this time. I think this is true in every part of the country. I am sure it is as true in Philadelphia as it is in Cleveland. We have been moving blight around. I think it is time for us to find out how to erase the causes of this problem.

I want to pay tribute first of all to people in the Federal Housing Administration like Robert Smith and Sybil Phillips in the multi-family division. They have gone far beyond the call of their duties. They have gone out into the communities and tried to help us. For the first time under the new administration of HUD, we are getting teamwork where groups of people are coming to us and consolidating the whole program and pointing out to the community groups the separate aspects of the housing laws that are going to be effective and relatively important to our community.

With respect to the demonstration cities program, the \$12 million in planning money in this bill is ridiculously disproportionate to the task; \$50 million and upwards of \$50 million would hardly be enough. We are finding in Cleveland that our programs suffer for lack of planning money for which we have no local resources.

We are trying vitally to utilize programs like 221(b)(3) and 312 in urban renewal areas.