

of HUD, and I think that perhaps he can assist the committee with some expertise in outlining how it is that the cities have present practical problems and perhaps your committee can do this in terms of answering some of these problems.

So, it is a great pleasure for me to introduce Mayor Braman of the city of Seattle and his assistant, Mr. Edward Devine, to the committee, and we appreciate your courtesy.

Mr. BARRETT. Thank you very much, Congressman Adams.

I just want to tell you that this committee will certainly utilize his expert knowledge when we are marking up this bill.

Mr. Mayor, if you decide to make your statement in full, we shall be glad to ask you questions at the end of your statement. If you are now prepared to make your statement, you may start.

**STATEMENT OF HON. J. D. BRAMAN, MAYOR OF SEATTLE, WASH.;
ACCOMPANIED BY EDWARD J. DEVINE, PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSISTANT
TO THE MAYOR**

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

First, let me say I am most appreciative of this opportunity to appear before this committee and present our thoughts regarding mass transportation and anything else that may be appropriate to the occasion.

I might also say that we, too, are quite proud of our congressional delegation here, including Mr. Adams. We think we have contributed in both long service and wisdom in brilliant young men to the balance of thinking in both branches of the National Legislature.

If it is agreeable with the committee, I have a prepared statement which we would like to introduce for the record as though it had been read. Then, I will proceed to just make some comments of my own, and I certainly will be at your pleasure to answer questions if you have any at the conclusion of my remarks.

Mr. BARRETT. You may do so, as you please.

Mr. BRAMAN. The problem of transportation in a city such as Seattle is probably no different than that in many other cities, though each one has its own peculiarities as to age, composition, geography, and topography. We have been most encouraged, all of us, in municipal government, by the renewed interest, the high degree of interest expressed by the Federal Government in the problems of our cities. We have felt for many years that we were sort of alone in the wilderness with these problems, these tremendous problems. It has been most heartwarming and encouraging to feel we now have some friends in high places who are also looking at the problems with us.

Keeping cities healthy is a matter of national concern, and certainly the health of the central core of cities and the urban area surrounding them is of paramount importance.

One of the reasons that is most important to maintaining the health of a downtown area is that it contributes so heavily to the tax base and consequently to the ability of the city to provide necessary services. If people are to live reasonably safely and happily in cities, maintaining a healthy core to the community is essential.