

Mr. Mayor, I come from the city from which you come as mayor and I think it might be misunderstood if I gave you a flowery introduction here this morning. People know my feeling for you and they know that you have done a tremendous job in Philadelphia on housing and urban development, and I want to say to you very frankly almost every mayor that came before our committee has indicated that they are using more or less the city of Philadelphia as a prototype or a pattern for the urban renewal and housing activities in their respective cities.

So this would indicate, Mr. Mayor, that I certainly do not have to give you a flowery introduction to spell out the fine work that you have been doing and I am quite sure the 68 projects that you now have functioning in the city is helping to eliminate the slum and blight, the delinquency and crime areas in the city of Philadelphia.

Mr. Mayor, I am quite sure that Congressman Widnall was right when he said he was sorry he was not able to get here to benefit from the testimony you will offer here this morning.

Mr. Mayor, if you are desirous to complete your statement in full, you may do so, at the end of which Members may want to ask you one or two questions.

If you are prepared now, you may start.

STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES H. J. TATE, MAYOR, CITY OF PHILADELPHIA; ACCOMPANIED BY JOHN J. O'SHEA, DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR; AND IVAN GLUCKMAN, ASSISTANT DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Mr. TATE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to reiterate and almost repeat the paragraph taken out of context in Congressman Widnall's letter to you, that your fine record in Philadelphia, as well as your great interest in the Housing and Urban Development Program throughout this country.

I have had the privilege of serving on the executive committee for the National League of Cities which was formerly the American Municipal Association where we relied to a great extent on the former Congressman Rains and his great work and there was some concern about who the new chairman would be to replace him. Of course, we were all pleased to find that you had the seniority necessary to enable you to demonstrate the talent which you have displayed so well in handling, in engineering this legislation through the last session and in conducting all of these meetings which are so important to the entire program for the urban centers of America.

I first want to apologize to the committee for not being here on previously scheduled meetings. As I indicated to you, Judge Eugene Alessandrini who was the Grand Venerable of the Sons of Italy and who presided as judge of Police Court No. 5, died and it was important for me to attend his funeral inasmuch as I was a longtime friend of his family to whom I wished to extend my sympathy at the time of his death.

I do not want to belabor you and the committee with a long, extended presentation on why I think the demonstration cities program should apply to Philadelphia.