

Mr. BARRETT. Would you just yield to me for a second?

I appreciate your kind remarks, but it would be remiss, and I say this very honestly, that if I were to take the credit that you really want to give me, I think our housing staff is the finest of any staff in the Congress.

Mr. TATE. Thank you, Congressman. I am very much aware of that and that has been brought to my attention by the staff at the National League of Cities, as well as the U.S. Conference of Mayors, which of course, as you know, take a great deal of interest in this legislation.

I have prepared a supplementary statement which I want to file with the committee with the thought that this may be helpful and will extend my views with respect to other legislation on housing as well as mass transportation which is now being considered by this committee.

It is my understanding that you are pursuing all of these items and testimony is acceptable in this fashion.

The main thrust of my testimony before you this morning is something which I think is urgent and that is why I wish to emphasize it, not particularly because it is for Philadelphia alone, although with your knowledge of our great city, you know it is very important to us that it should have priority, but because it is important to consider this as a prototype for the problems in the big cities of America.

I want to applaud and commend the President and his administration for the development of a first-rate program which will give all of us who have struggled so long and arduously, and this includes members of the committee, with the immense problems of our cities, a feeling of renewed strength in the knowledge that at long last the need for action on a massive scale and I emphasize "massive" in quotes and underlined 4 times, has been forthrightly recognized and clearly stated and placed before the American people. There is no question in our minds that the demonstration cities program is by far the most ambitious and comprehensive concept yet advanced by the Federal Government for the creative rebuilding of our urban cities. We wish to state that it has our unqualified support, as I told the new Secretary of HUD, as well as our belief that substantial inroads will be made on urban areas, now in decline and decay, at a pace that will restore a sense of control to those who shoulder public responsibility for this and are committed to the future betterment of our communities.

On the basis of the specifications and objectives contained in H.R. 12341, I can say without hesitation that Philadelphia, our great city, will be ready as a demonstration city. The city's technical staff, on the basis of its long-range comprehensive plan, has conceived a total program for the blighted core.

This plan is the blueprint for action to provide desperately needed facilities and to remove deteriorated structure which presently depress a large area of our city. It should be noted that Philadelphia still needs such a program after 18 years of urban renewal and development. We have 68 title I projects, large and small, at some points of execution or submission in our city. We have additionally 13 non-title I, city-assisted projects at work. These represent a commitment of a combined total of more than \$435 million in Federal, State, and local funds.