

I have distributed copies of the first chart that I am referring to.

The particular section that I want to call your attention to is the substandard area where we have 9,000 vacant structures and lots. Here in North Philadelphia we have 6,827 vacant buildings. There are now 2,151 vacant lots. But this is not a situation which affects just North Philadelphia alone. West Philadelphia and South Philadelphia are also afflicted with these seeds of blight which are beginning to spread their terrible ravages.

This is the particular area to which I am referring where you have close to 9,000 vacant houses which can be uplifted by a demonstration cities program and where we have presently under consideration a request for rehabilitation of 5,000 houses which are vacant but salvageable under the public housing program now before the Public Housing Administration and you will recall, Mr. Chairman, that you and I, together with members of my administration, made a very fine presentation before Mrs. McGuire, the Commissioner of Public Housing, some weeks ago in this connection.

This alone is just a beginning. In addition to that, we have throughout the entire city close to 19,000 similar vacant houses and lots; and the block dots which are superimposed on the map show exactly what we are faced with.

The area in which the derelict structures are indicated runs from Spring Garden to Lehigh Avenue and from the Schuylkill River to the Delaware River. The black marks show the vacant houses themselves. But the superimposed yellow areas show what this does to a block of row houses.

There are 802 such blocks in the area—46 percent of the total number.

But housing is not, of course, the whole picture. And this is important because the public housing administration itself is interested in more than just having houses rehabilitated. They want to know about the total picture. We in Philadelphia are very fortunate in having a very fine planning commission, which has as its executive director Mr. Edmund Bacon, one of the finest planners in America; the commission and its staff have provided this excellent plan for the area just referred to, from river to river, and from here to here [indicating].

This is a comprehensive plan which will provide the housing required to meet the needs of the people there without involving them in the problems of relocation. At the same time, no massive demolition will be needed, resulting in rows and rows of public housing. Instead the people will be able to remain in their neighborhoods and have the facilities and amenities they deserve. We propose, for example, to build 12 new schools over a 6-year period. They are indicated in blue [indicating].

In addition, six new recreation centers will be developed. They are marked in green.

You will notice that in several locations the school and recreation program will be developed jointly with the schools adjacent to the recreation areas for greatest effect.

This will cost the school board, itself, \$32,800,000 in city funds alone. Recreation centers will cost us more than \$1,300,000. The