

that a similar committee might do on new towns. This is a controversial matter. I believe at the present time we need a study—an expert study. Do you think a committee like this, like the one that you have on historic preservation could be of use in this area?

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Widnall, if you will yield for just a second.

I certainly would be delighted for Mr. Rains to answer this question. It is very educational to me and I am quite sure edifying to everybody in the committee. But when the former chairman of this committee began his testimony he said, on my experience on this committee a short statement right to the point is very effective. This is a very controversial matter and we ought to give him an opportunity to return and answer the statement.

Mr. WIDNALL. I was not asking for an opinion as to whether he was for or against new towns. I thought that with his very valuable experience in this particular field that he might throw some light on how he thought we might approach the solution to a highly controversial matter at the present time.

Mr. RAINS. You remember, of course, the new towns came up while I was still chairman of the committee and I know all about the controversy. I am not going to get into it one way or another. I will say this, I will use the chairman's words—it is a controversial, difficult subject and it does need great study, using his words, by knowledgeable groups.

Now, I do not know that I know of any such group, but if I were still a member of this committee, I would want all the help I could get from knowledgeable people. I would just like to say this—I have been chairman of committees a long time in the Congress and I know you are all smart and distinguished people and we held many hearings while I was chairman of the committee in various places. But I never served on a committee that worked more diligently and manifested more real interest than the Special Committee on Historic Preservation and if you think that the trip that the committee went on was a fun trip, you are absolutely wrong. When you do a study which we did in 3 months' time under Larry Henderson, you are a busy man.

I would like to compliment the members of that committee, all distinguished people, and they knew much more about preservation and restoration than I do and among those who were of great help was Gordon Gray and all of them contributed greatly.

If I do say it, if I was sitting in your place, I would have liked to have had that study on historic preservation which you have there to guide me in my consideration because it is a well-done job. I do not take credit for it—but the committee is truly entitled I think to the thanks—not only of the Congress but of the people for a labor of love. That is what it really is.

Getting back to your question, the more information you get on that subject the better. I do not know how it ought to be done and I do not want to express any opinion at all, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. WIDNALL. One more thing, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Rains, it is always good to see you back here, either before us as a witness, or counseling with us in the office on the Hill. Because your work, your opinions, your knowledge is invaluable to all of us