

that the need for a total approach to combating the insidious but relentless growth of urban slums and city ghettos is recognized.

Therefore, today I will limit my testimony almost exclusively to the demonstration cities program. However, I also will discuss briefly a bill I have introduced that would extend the rent supplement program to housing financed directly or through loan insurance by States and municipalities. Finally I will touch on the sensitive matter of discriminatory limitations in some Federal grant-in-aid programs that work to the disadvantage of large cities.

Last year in testifying before this subcommittee I addressed myself to more than 15 housing bills that I had introduced during the last session, most of which dealt with various aspects of the Housing Act of 1949. Of my many bills, one I have testified on several times is that one (H.R. 3962) which calls for the establishment of a new program of Federal loans to be made from a revolving fund set up to assist with the construction and rehabilitation of nonprofit middle income housing. I believe that the points I made in my testimony on April 6, 1965, are still relevant today as far as this country's overall housing needs are concerned. With that for a preface I would like to now turn specifically to H.R. 12341.

I agree with President Johnson, who said, in sending this demonstration cities program concept to the Congress on January 26, that heretofore "the size and scale of urban assistance has been too small and too widely dispersed."

H.R. 12341 nourishes the hope that through expanded Federal help, which combines ambitious physical reconstruction and rehabilitation with effective social programs at every step in the rebuilding process, our cities may truly be reborn.

The hope is based on two aspects of the plan. For the first time, the potential scale of the attack on urban slums, at least from the standpoint of the plan's intent, matches the magnitude of the problem. Secondly, the demonstration cities program matches the complexity of the causes of urban decay with cures; housing, welfare, poverty, and education are to be dealt with simultaneously by mobilizing all government agencies, programs, and resources.

With the Federal Government paying 80 percent of the local share of all Federal grant-in-aid projects that are focused on the demonstration areas, for the first time the local community can take heart that the problems are not insoluble and that Washington will be an important partner in reaching these solutions.

I personally believe that, unless massive remedial and pioneering steps are taken to ease the torment of life for those who live in slum neighborhoods, there are grave risks that these slum inhabitants will take matters into their own hands in an attempt to alter the frustrating pattern of their lives.

The bill we are now considering, H.R. 12341, has been hailed by many as landmark legislation; others have called it one of the most comprehensive and far-seeing Federal programs ever designed. While my own enthusiasm for the bill is not without its limits, as the representative of a great but embattled American city, I consider the demonstration cities program a venturesome plan for the human and physical renewal of our worst slum neighborhoods. As Congressman