

submit for the record your own idea—not a firm estimate as to what your cities would need under a program such as this. If you feel you could submit something like that in the near future, I would appreciate having it in the record.

Mr. WHELAN. I might say this. We feel that Jersey City would be an ideal city for this program because, as I understand it, a test city means just that. We want to test out these programs to see if they are effective in solving the problems we have. It may be that these programs will not or cannot solve our problems. So we are testing them out and our city is not too large in that the effort that can be made at this time in sampling or testing, which is what we are talking about, would not be lost. Some effort could be made and the effort could show results, because we are not too big, and yet we are not too small, that the sampling would not be conclusive.

I think we are the ideal size and we have all the ugly social problems that spring from urban decay in such depth that all of these programs could be tested.

Mr. WIDNALL. Are you at the present time using to any major extent modernization and rehabilitation programs that is possible under urban renewal? Are you using that to any extent in Jersey City?

Mr. WHELAN. We have now organized a division in our development and planning section for doing just that, but to answer your question with reference to what I think the most important criteria is in selecting a test city, I would say the willingness and ability of the community to help itself, would be the most important criterion and perhaps, Mr. Willis, the professional, could answer the question in greater detail if that would be of any help to the committee.

Mr. Willis?

Mr. WILLIS. If I could just say a word on that. The city does have an approved general neighborhood renewal programs for a large part of the area that we have selected to be a demonstration area. This program calls for the rehabilitation of four neighborhoods in downtown Jersey City and has been approved for approximately \$20 million of Federal assistance with \$10 million additional being spent by the municipality. We have the \$10 million programed in terms of public improvements out over the next 10 or 12 years.

The point that the mayor made was that we now can say that these neighborhoods can, in fact, be rehabilitated and saved. But we fear that should we be doing it at the rate of rehabilitation that we anticipated in our general neighborhood renewal plan, that by the time we got to the last neighborhood, or even the last neighborhoods, they would no longer be rehabilitable but would have to have more drastic and more expensive treatments. That is why we suggested accelerating the program. We laid it out and programed it in terms of meeting our share of the financial requirement. If we could escape that limitation and accelerate this whole thing the downtown area could, in fact, be the kind of rehabilitation area that we already planned it to be.

Mr. WIDNALL. Thank you very much.

Mr. BARRETT (presiding). Mr. St Germain?

Mr. ST GERMAIN. In your submission, the one that is entitled "the Demonstration Cities Act of 1966—a Proposed Program for Jersey