

Jersey City has been the recipient of Federal funds for urban renewal, has it not?

Mr. WHELAN. Yes; it has.

Mr. FINO. My question is this: would you still be for the demonstration cities program if Jersey City is left out, does not draw that lucky ticket and urban renewal funds are cut off from your city—would you still be for this program?

Mr. WHELAN. If urban renewal funds are cut off from our city, our situation will be hopeless.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Willis, may I just interpose? It is not the purpose of this committee to cut any urban renewal money off from any city if they miss or are not lucky enough to come within the scope of the program. We are desirous of helping, not preventing, people from getting these things corrected, which we call pockets full of blight, slums, juvenile delinquency and crime. There is no intent to cut any city off in the entire Nation.

Mr. FINO. Will the gentleman yield?

First of all, the mayor has already answered the question, he would not be for this program if it cut off his funds. But I am saying, it would not be the intent of the legislation to do that, but it could very well work out, because it is tied in this demonstration cities program—this is tied in with urban renewal funds and it could very well be without intent to eliminate Jersey City from this program, the urban renewal program, because they are concentrating all the funds on these demonstration cities. I want the mayors all over the country to be aware of this.

Mr. WHELAN. If I may be able to take your time to make an observation. If Jersey City is not going to be a test city, I am still for the program. I think I can say this. I enthusiastically support the program. I think this is an excellent concept and an excellent idea, and we should have it.

If we were to be cut off from Federal aid, it would be the death knell of Jersey City. We are an old city and I have said this many times—I may say it here for the record—just as the wealth of our city flows throughout the Nation in the heyday when the cities were wealthy, the virile, intelligent, economically strong people desire to live in our cities. Their strength economically and sociologically flowed throughout the Nation and helped build the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the land in the West. Now the wealth of our community is gone with the strong, solid, middle class leaving by the day, and in the vacuum comes the poor, unfortunate, who not only cannot make a contribution, but takes from us what substance is left in the form of police protection and fire protection. Unless the cities, and my own city included—unless this problem is met soon by massive Federal aid, we are not going to solve the dilemma of urban decay.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Mayor, may I interpose? In marking up this bill we will show the intent by recording this in the report that those cities who are not cooperating in the demonstration cities program will not be in any way damaged because of their urban renewal allocations.

Mr. St Germain?

Mr. ST GERMAIN. I think actually what my colleague, Mr. Fino, meant when he said if Jersey City were to be cut off, I do not think