

We have Mr. Widnall here. He is the minority leader. He comes from that great State of New Jersey and he has been a great factor in helping our people, particularly helping this committee, to get legislation necessary to help the people who are in dire need of decent housing.

MR. WIDNALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We certainly welcome you here today. When our chairman gets through speaking to a group there is nothing left for anybody else to say.

We earnestly hope you enjoy your experience in the brief time that you are here and that you shall contribute toward your own future and the wisdom of a better housing program for all of our country. We feel we think of all Americans as part of our growth and of our economy, and what is good and decent for the people of the United States. We are trying to do a job together up here on this committee to provide the tools to work with. Glad to see you.

MR. BARRETT. Mr. Rouse, thank you very much for yielding. Of course, you know these young people learn faster and much faster than we who are over 21. In order to welcome them here this morning, I took advantage of your time to interrupt. Thank you very much.

MR. ROUSE. Happy to be interrupted.

MR. BARRETT. You may continue.

MR. ROUSE. I might just say picking up from this interruption, without even turning around to look and to see what attractive and brilliant young people these are, I can assure you of one thing, they can plan the American city better than we are building it today. Because any group could. Your committee members may not consider yourselves experts in city planning, but the knowledge of how to build a better city is a commonplace knowledge in America today. We know it doesn't make sense to build schools and churches and stores and recreation areas in unrelated positions in a community, inadequately served by roads. We know it doesn't make sense to bury the forests, to put the streams underground in storm sewers and to desecrate the landscape as we are doing. There is, throughout America, a growing wave of concern about the failures of urban growth. We have come to derisively label suburban sprawl and we need an ugly word—we need the word "slums" in order to describe what was happening at the heart of our cities. It takes some ugly words to make us aware of the fact that over the next 20 years we are going to add 70 million people to the American city. This means we are going to build a Toledo every month over the next 20 years. It means that every single year we are going to build a new Denver, a new Dallas, and a new Atlanta in America—every year.

By the end of this century, the President said in his message to Congress, and I believe it is a reliable guess, we will build the equivalent in the American city of everything that has been built since Plymouth Rock.

This is the task that we have ahead and I doubt that there is any aspect of American life in which the gap is so great between our knowledge of how to do something and our actual performance in doing it, as the building of American cities. I am not now talking about the renewal and restructuring and reorganization of the old city.