

in common. We are hopeful that we give you comfort and contentment and complete relaxation here this morning when you testify.

I will call on Mr. Widnall of New Jersey.

Mr. WIDNALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to say Congressman Rooney who is representing your area wanted to be here, and I know he wanted expressly to do so. But he has a conflict at the present time. So he wanted to convey to you his welcome and his regrets that he couldn't be here to make a full introduction.

I have the pleasure in welcoming you here, as a member of the minority, and knowing that you are doing a fine job as the mayor of Bethlehem and that you will contribute a great deal to the hearings now in progress. We appreciate your coming here.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Mayor, we certainly want you to choose your own way of making your presentation here on your testimony this morning. Whatever you desire to do, the committee will be glad to go along with you. If you desire to read your statement in full you may and we may ask you one or two questions after you complete your statement. You may start.

STATEMENT OF HON. H. GORDON PAYROW, JR., MAYOR OF BETHLEHEM, PA.

Mr. PAYROW. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It is my regret that Congressman Rooney and I are each of different political affiliations.

If possible, I would like to present my testimony, read the complete statement, and then have questions.

Ladies and gentlemen of this distinguished subcommittee, I welcome the opportunity you have afforded the city of Bethlehem and myself to appear here today to support the demonstration cities program. I do support this program as a city dweller myself, as the mayor of one of the fastest growing cities in Pennsylvania, and as an official of the Pennsylvania League of Cities.

I heartily endorse the plan outlined by President Johnson to call a halt to urban decay and to begin today a comprehensive and dramatic rebirth of American cities.

There is no doubt that the decline of urban neighborhoods can be stopped if all of the governmental, social, educational, and welfare resources available can be united in a common effort to remove slums, wipe out poverty, make the unemployed employable, provide adequate schools and neighborhood facilities, make available respectable low-cost housing, create essential open space, and give rapidly expanding urban areas a new life.

The city of Bethlehem, Pa., is a typical American community, with a population exceeding 75,000 and consisting of an area of approximately 20 square miles, located in eastern Pennsylvania at the hub of the rapidly growing Lehigh Valley. It is a basic industrial community, deep in culture and heritage, with the average earnings in the neighborhood of \$6,000 and with an unemployment rate of 2.7 percent. We enjoy two schools of higher learning; namely, Lehigh University and Moravian College. We were founded by a group of German immigrants who settled here in 1741.