

The basic proposals were discussed and passed unanimously by the executive board, unanimously, by our full board, and by our convention. We presented these proposals to the National Housing Conference and they were adopted.

Mr. WIDNALL. I was interested when Mr. Hasty was just talking—he classified small towns of under 10,000. For some time I think we have been getting a little bit brainwashed of what is a city and what is a suburban area—an urban area—and I object to this where it said this and others have said 75 or 80 percent of America is urban. This blacks out everything that is really still rural or somewhere rural and suburban. As a result of that I think you have the main difficulty in trying to get recognition for problems of the small town and rural areas.

Dr. CARSTENSON. I very much agree. It is very true in your State. I had a number of occasions in the last months to meet with many of our members in New Jersey. I hardly know whether to call parts of New Jersey rural areas or suburban areas or what.

Mr. WIDNALL. This is generally done and you try to get a lot of good legislation for the city so everything is urban.

Dr. CARSTENSON. We have some very specific recommendations to suggest to help the small cities, towns, and rural areas.

The first proposal would help the Department of HUD better serve these small towns. By small towns we mean set it at 20,000, 10,000, 5,000, 2,000—none of them are getting their fair shake. The problem in HUD is that most of the focus has been on the large metropolitan cities which have very serious problems. Again, I speak for equity treatment, not only of the towns of 250,000 and 100,000, but towns of 10,000, 5,000, 1,000, and 500.

Mr. WIDNALL. Is it not true that the greatest help to the farmer, in my mind—we can give them through real estate taxes—is not this the most help we can give them—through real estate tax relief?

Dr. CARSTENSON. That is right.

Mr. WIDNALL. This is where there has not been any comparable improvement.

Dr. CARSTENSON. This would be much better than income tax relief because the family farmer doesn't make that much income.

Mr. WIDNALL. I know we are going to try to do something in New Jersey to give some kind of tax relief for the farmers up there. You show in your figures that it is very much higher there than in the rest of the United States. I would like to see something done along that line as well as the type of program you have here.

Dr. CARSTENSON. Thank you, Mr. Congressman. We appreciate all your efforts in this area very much. I know that many of our members in New Jersey have pushed for property tax relief themselves. They have been pushed against the wall economically, pushed out of farming, and forced to retire with very low incomes or move into other kinds of jobs. They wanted to remain in farming but property taxes are such that they are unable to continue farming.

Mr. BARRETT. Let me ask you a question. The statements that you are making more or less seem to be extemporaneous. Are the statements here? Do you desire to have your statement submitted in the record in full as well?

Dr. CARSTENSON. Both.

Mr. BARRETT. Without objection, so ordered.