

prepared a series of detailed general neighborhood renewal plans (now discouraged under the program) in hope of carrying out total renewal and capturing all the credit it could from a large, one-time bond issue that has taxed the city to its capacity, in hopes that it could finance a 15-year urban renewal program. All Crystal City urban renewal activities have been planned and executed in strict accordance with these GNRPs and to date in 6 years the city has cleared 393 substandard houses, built 201 new houses, remodeled 318 houses and relocated 745 people from slum units to standard housing, expended \$3,600,000 of Federal and local public funds and \$2 million in private expenditures, but with all the above activity, Crystal City still remains 60 percent substandard due to its inability to plan and execute on an overall basis. It must attempt to accomplish its activities on a project-by-project concept with delays, changes in directives, and Federal legislation.

The city is experiencing problems in regard to credits, increased costs, and cannot continue to delay needed improvements outside approved urban renewal areas. Without the assistance of the overall type of project activities Crystal City is confronted with tremendous urban renewal gains being jeopardized by creeping obsolescence, time-consuming delays, lack of continued enthusiasm, and general feeling of hopelessness among our poor citizens who see other areas being improved and no foreseeable change occurring in their area or no way out of their poverty.

The city feels it is essential to the future success of its program and the programs of other like communities, that it be included as one of the example cities in the massive attack on slums program. The city is an ideal size rural community of 10,000 population, it is supported by agriculture, has 63.5 percent of its inhabitants making less than \$3,000 per year through migratory work, and 79 percent having less than a fourth-grade education.

The city feels that it is prepared to undertake this type of project, probably more than any other city, either large or small, in the country, and has complete support of all local agencies and governmental units. It is and has been willing to follow good planning ideas and methods rather than political expedient or profit-motivated schemes, and will be an ideal city to be an example of proper slum elimination, rebuilding, and total coordination for other small cities with substandard conditions to be guided by. Proof of this is not based on assumptions, but past and current results even through all types of adverse political and financial problems.

Crystal City proposes to make application for this program when Congress has provided legislation. We pray that small cities are not eliminated from the program.

Yours very truly,

ROYCE G. COOK, *Chairman.*

METAL TRADES DEPARTMENT,
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND
CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS,
Washington, D.C., March 30, 1966.

Hon. WILLIAM A. BARRETT,
*Chairman, Housing Subcommittee,
Committee on Banking and Currency,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BARRETT: (This is with regard to H.R. 13064, entitled the "Housing and Urban Development Amendments of 1966.")

On behalf of the metal trades department and its 22 affiliated international unions with several hundred thousands of members employed in Defense Department and other Federal installations throughout the country, may I take this opportunity to earnestly recommend that your subcommittee give early and favorable consideration to the recommendation of Mr. Boris Shishkin, secretary of the AFL-CIO Housing Committee as given in his testimony on March 3 and in his supplemental statement of March 11.

There is no question but that it is of utmost importance for the bill before your committee to be amended to provide for the extremely serious problem created by closure of Defense Department and other Federal installations requiring Federal employees and their families to move to another location and to abandon their homes at the location of such closing installations.