

4. *Question.*—Of the 10 proposals on Denver bond issues, was urban renewal the only one defeated that involved Federal help?

Answer.—Yes. All of the 10 questions set forth in the bond issue election ordinance used the term “* * *” for the purpose of providing funds in whole or in part the costs of “* * *”

It was anticipated that some of the programs would involve Federal help. We expect to use Hill-Harris Act assistance in the development of the general and emergency hospital. Where possible, we also expect to use appropriate Federal assistance in the parks and recreation facilities development program. We are not aware of any Federal help which would have been available to assist in the construction of city hall, city shops system, and the hall of justice.

5. *Question.*—Is your position one that the people of Denver are going to have urban renewal projects whether they approve of them or not?

Answer.—As mayor of Denver I have a sworn responsibility to work for the constant improvement of the city of Denver. Slums and blight can be prevented through coordinated programs of planning, improved public services, code enforcement and neighborhood conservation. The best way to eliminate existing slums and blight is through well-planned and executed urban renewal programs. As mayor of Denver I have a major responsibility for the planning and execution of programs for community improvement using the most effective tools at my disposal. Urban renewal has already proven to be a very effective tool for this purpose.

6. *Question.*—Do you plan to put the matter of approval of urban renewal projects to a vote of the people of Denver in the future? Of the proposed urban renewal projects up to this time, were any of these submitted to a vote of the people? If not, how were they approved?

Answer.—Under the Colorado urban renewal law the responsibility for designating and approving urban renewal projects rests with the Board of Commissioners of the Denver Urban Renewal Authority, the elected city council, and the mayor. If it is necessary to finance future urban renewal projects by the issuance of bonds, the question will undoubtedly be put to a vote of the people. The only election held on urban renewal matters has been the bond issue of June 1964. The projects were approved by majority vote of city council and by the mayor in accordance with the requirements of the Colorado urban renewal law.

7. *Question.*—Are you against all referenda on urban renewal projects?

Answer.—No. The June 1964 bond issue covering 10 items, one of which included urban renewal, was formulated by me and placed before the people with the strong support of my administration. As I have stated in my answer to question 6 above, I believe that some future urban renewal projects will require a bond election.

8. *Question.*—What is the current status of your operating urban renewal projects? For how many have you obtained private developers to the point of formalizing their operations by contract?

Answer.—Denver has 4 projects in execution, i.e., under loan and grant contracts with the Urban Renewal Administration. In one of these we are in the process of acquiring property and have not offered any land for sale. In the other 3 projects we have awarded and are negotiating redevelopment contracts with 17 firms or individuals comprising a total private construction cost of \$10,098,000.

9. *Question.*—If Denver's chances of obtaining future urban renewal aid in the form of new projects are jeopardized by the priorities established by the city demonstration program, would you still advocate the establishment of the latter program?

Answer.—No. As I stated at the time of my testimony before the Housing Subcommittee, I am well aware of the demands against the Federal Government's resources in light of the Vietnam situation. I believe we have primary responsibilities to carry out those projects which are now in planning and execution. I am hopeful that some funds will be made available for the cities demonstration program without jeopardizing the existing urban renewal program.

I hope that these answers will be satisfactory for your purpose.

Sincerely yours,

TOM CURRIGAN, Mayor.