

mayor that has sponsored community projects all through the years.

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you here and welcome your city manager, who is sitting with you, Mr. Townes. I appreciate your appearance here today. I just regret that the time schedule is such that we have to have a noon hour without interruption.

We will hear from you at this time, Mayor Dawahare.

STATEMENT OF HON. WILLIAM C. DAWAHARE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HAZARD, KY.; ACCOMPANIED BY PAUL T. TOWNES, CITY MANAGER

Mayor DAWAHARE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My name is William C. Dawahare, but I am known, far and wide to all my friends and acquaintances as "Willie" Dawahare. I am mayor of the city of Hazard, Ky. I am also president of Dawahare's, Inc., operators of a chain of eight clothing stores in central and southeastern Kentucky.

Hazard, the county seat of Perry County, Ky., is in the heart of Appalachia. Legendarily, some residents of the then new community served under Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry during the Battle of Lake Erie. Understandably, the city and county names commemorate this notable event.

Known wherever coal is used, Hazard is the centralizing point of the area in southeastern Kentucky known as the Hazard coalfield. This area accounts for a significant per cent of national coal production. On the north fork of the Kentucky River, it is the largest city, population 8,200, of a five-county area—Perry, Knott, Breathitt, Leslie—with an estimated 1967 population of 100,000. Regional financial, retail shopping, railroad, hospital, educational, and cultural centers are in Hazard.

Since coal mining is the chief industry, we have usual problems related to a one-industry area. The Hazard coalfield is currently producing about the same tonnage as was produced during the peak periods of World War II, but as coal mining is now one of the most completely mechanized of all industries, this is being done with 90 per cent less labor.

In addition to the large numbers of unemployed workers, eastern Kentucky and the city of Hazard have many other economic and social problems such as narrow, winding roads; high dropout rate among high schoolers; pockets of slum dwellings; inadequate water and sewer services; no first-class airport facilities; and frequent flash floods to mention a few.

To some degree, these problems are being solved or some effort is being made to ease them. Public housing and urban renewal are eliminating slums, new highways are under construction, a decrease in the dropout rate, thanks to aid to education, can be expected.

The Corps of Engineers are building one dam and studying sites for others, so you can see we are on the upward ladder for better life for our citizens. However, for some reason the people at the bottom of the economic ladder had never been reached until some of the programs of the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Labor Department were put into operation.