

Mayor DAWAHARE. When my father came to this country—well, I will go ahead.

My father was born in Damascus, and he was one of a few Christians. At that time Damascus was ruled by the Turks, and the Turks were persecuting all the Christians. They were Mohammedans or Moslems. My father and a few other boys escaped to Brazil and then went to Mexico. When my father came to New York, he met my mother, and she was working in one of the shirt factories, sweatshops, and they got married on her money that she earned. She had a brother in Norton, Va., and they went to Norton. My father is one of the original pack peddlers that you heard of in eastern Kentucky.

Chairman PERKINS. Now, all these programs that you make mention of, Neighborhood Youth Corps, the community action, has it been your observation that any one prevented disorder or contributed to the prevention of disorder?

Mayor DAWAHARE. They have prevented it before.

Chairman PERKINS. At this time give the committee an idea.

Mayor DAWAHARE. Before we had the Neighborhood Youth Corps and some of these other programs, we had what we called the roving pickets. We had dynamiting, we had unrest, we had people that were unemployed. As you know, 90 percent of them were unemployed. We gave jobs to the children from these families.

Chairman PERKINS. Are you satisfied with the way that we have reached the bottom of the ladder, the bottom of the totem pole, the youngster that really needs the services that we are attempting to provide in Washington?

Mayor DAWAHARE. That is the only way under this program that we have been able to reach them. I have that in my statement that I will go ahead with.

Chairman PERKINS. Go ahead with it.

Mayor DAWAHARE. In our small city, we also find that when Federal programs are carried out with the full intent of the U.S. Congress, under completely honest circumstances, we have no problem. However, the bureaucratic redtape often stymies a project, the resulting delays cause unrest among the very people the program is intended to benefit. I can give you a firsthand example of this.

We have a grossly substandard Negro neighborhood that was cleared via the urban renewal methods and the land purchased by public housing for redevelopment of 30 units of public housing. Public housing has had the project for over a year and a half, but no construction is yet underway. This has caused concern among our people and they, as well as everyone else, can't understand the delays.

There are even rumors that the 30 units will never be built because the funds for the project are being spent in Vietnam. It is my frank opinion, Mr. Chairman, that public housing could allocate more funds and have the units constructed as they required them to be designed. Such inexcusable, calloused and arbitrary bureaucratic delays may cause unrest among the to-be-benefited people, regardless of race or origin.

I can elaborate on this, that when the bids that come up—we have had bids you know come before that we advertised for the public housing and the engineers would send the specifications in, public housing would send them back. Now urban renewal works real good, and this