In summary, UCC, through its staff, officers and Board members were in the forefront of efforts to prevent the outburst as it was starting. We were in the forefront of efforts in conjunction with the Mayor, the Governor, and their staff to bring an end to the hostilities as they progressed. These actions were at great personal risk to all of us and in a sincere and genuine effort to preserve order in the community. Our leaders took to the radio and in the streets in an effort to end the hostilities. It is my firm belief that UCC's record in the community helped to restore order to Newark.

On August 1, 1967, two members of the Newark City Council, Councilmen Bernstein and Addonizio, accompanied by Detective Mallare and Anthony DeFino appeared before your Committee and testified with regard to the alleged involvement of representatives of our corporation in the riots in Newark or the conduct which allegedly precipitated the riots.

The testimony of each of these gentlemen was replete with inaccuracies, assumptions, and reflected the dismal lack of awareness they had of the concerns of the people of our city. Their statements were unpardonable acts of irresponsibility and contained outlandish charges that were not supported by facts in their appearance before this Committee. I hesitate to respond to what they said lest it lend a color of dignity to their reprehensible remarks.

However, I do respond to certain statements made by them so that there will be no question in the minds of any members of this Committee as to the conduct of this corporation its staff, its board members, and officers.

I categorically deny that the conduct of our corporation can in any way be labeled as "communist" or tainted with "communists". Though this charge was made by Councilman Bernstein, when pressed for supporting evidence, he conceded he had none.

Councilman Bernstein charged that the community action programs in the City of Newark played an important part in setting off the riots in our city (TR 4377). This is grossly untrue.

We have heretofore set forth the kinds of programs developed by our corporation which have sought to bring about stability in the community. The councilman alluded to the conduct of the Newark Community Union Project (NCUP) which he said contributed to the riots. It should be made clear that the Newark Community Union Project is not affiliated or associated with the United Community Corporation and, as a matter of fact, on numerous occasions some persons who have been affiliated with NCUP and have been members of UCC have differed most vigorously with some of the policy positions taken by the Board of Trustees of this corporation. I make no comment on the conduct of NCUP since any allegiations levelled against them should be answered by their representatives. The councilman charges that several of the area boards helped to set off the incident that happened on July 13 which precipitated the riot. We categorically deny this. To the contrary, as heretofore indicated, the officials of our corporation took every reasonable measure to calm the anger and hostility of the crowd when it appeared that there might be an outburst.

It is charged that opposition of the appointment of the secretary to the Board of Education was led by anti-poverty people (TR 4379). We have already indicated to the Committee the community issue involved in the appointment to this position. However, the corporation took no official position on the appointment nor did anyone speak in any meetings in regard to this issue, as an authorized representative or on behalf of UCC.

It is charged that UCC opposed the medical center in Newark and that among other things UCC loaded the meetings with people from the outside area and outside the city of Newark. We also categorically deny this. To the contrary the only person who spoke on behalf of UCC was the then executive director who addressed one of the blight hearings dealing with this problem, whose testimony is part of the official record of that meeting for examination.

It was charged that inflammatory remarks were made by Mr. Wheeler who was then allegedly an employee of UCC (TR 4386–4390). We likewise deny that at the time Mr. Wheeler was alleged to have made the statement referred to he was an employee of UCC. We also note for the Committee that Councilman Addonizio subsequently conceded in response to a question by Congressman O'Hara and Chairman Perkins that during the time period referred to, Mr. Wheeler was an employee of the Newark Board of Education and not of UCC.