

to low-income families. Do you not think that the pride taken in property ownership in the suburbs contributes to their beautification as opposed to the deterioration in our slum areas, where low-income families have allegiance only to the slumowners, the landlord, or perhaps the public housing project, but with no feeling of ownership themselves in the city itself?

Mr. REUTHER. I want to thank you, first of all, for saying these kind things about profit sharing. I think American industry ought to recognize that, if we are going to have something that can be called people's capitalism, then we have to do something about the fact that 1 percent of American families own 70 percent of the stock of America. Profit sharing would give you a broad democratic base of ownership and participation in American industries, and that is the way to make the American people be enthusiastically in support of our free-enterprise system.

With respect to American cities, I think that the point you make is well taken, and I share that point. I believe that the more American families we can have owning their own homes, the sooner we will change the basic character of our cities. I think, whether it is an absentee slum owner or whether it is the Federal Government, the relationship is bad, and I believe that the key to this is to come up with some bright new ideas of how we can apply modern technology to the total rebuilding of our cities.

We have got to get the cost of decent housing down so that millions of American families who live in slums can afford decent housing. I think if you can apply the most advanced technology to the auto industry and to the space industry, there ought to be enough courage and ingenuity to apply it to the housing industry.

Senator PERCY. If we have a softness in our economy this year, would you say, in your judgment, that rehabilitation of existing housing structures could develop into a growth industry?

Mr. REUTHER. I think that there is no question about it, that any time this country thinks it is running out of work, the housing field, education, medical facilities, and many other areas of need offer enough work to keep America busy for a long time.

Let me say, as one labor leader, at the risk that I may be criticized and that a lot of people may think I am soft, that I have never gotten very excited about the fight for the short workweek, because I think we have got too much work to do in America.

When we get all of these slums cleared so that every family has a decent house and every child has the kind of education opportunities to facilitate its maximum growth and development, when we have enough hospitals and all these other things, then I think a shorter workweek will make a lot of sense, because then the question will be, "Do you want more leisure or more gadgets?" and I would vote for more leisure.

But that is not our problem now, and the building of America and housing of America, I think, is a tremendous challenge and a good opportunity in terms of employment in the future.

Senator PERCY. Mr. Reuther, last year I proposed the establishment by the Congress of a national homeownership foundation.

You proposed in your testimony before the Ribicoff committee a national nonprofit housing corporation.