

The Agency's Board of Directors has assured me of its readiness and its desire to cooperate in implementing this reorganization plan. I am confident, Mr. Chairman, that, with such cooperation, the urban renewal activities of the District of Columbia, which are so essential to the well-being of our community and its redevelopment, will be substantially improved.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I thank you for this opportunity to appear and endorse this reorganization plan.

Mr. BLATNIK. Thank you, Mayor Washington.

Mr. Miller, do you have a statement that you want to read at this time?

Mr. MILLER. Yes.

Mr. BLATNIK. Would you please proceed?

STATEMENT OF NEVILLE MILLER, CHAIRMAN, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA REDEVELOPMENT LAND AGENCY; ACCOMPANIED BY THOMAS APPLEBY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Neville Miller, Chairman of the District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency, and I am pleased to offer this statement on Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1968, concerning this Agency, which you are now considering.

I have been a resident of the District of Columbia since July 1938, about 30 years. I am a practicing attorney, with offices in the Munsey Building. I was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Redevelopment Land Agency by the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia in September of 1960, 7½ years ago. I am testifying from some municipal experience as I was Mayor of Louisville, Ky., from 1933 to 1937.

The Redevelopment Land Agency's function in the urban renewal process in the District of Columbia consists of executing urban renewal plans which have been adopted and approved respectively by the National Capital Planning Commission and the District of Columbia government. Even though the basic planning and financial decisions concerning the urban renewal plans are made by NCPC and the District government, many critical decisions remain to be made in the execution stage of urban renewal. For example, decisions relating to relocation of families, individuals and businesses and the staging of redevelopment affect the lives of many persons and the continuation of many businesses. For these reasons, and because urban renewal activities are vital to the District of Columbia, they should be carried out with ultimate control over them residing with the Commissioner. We think that Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1968 achieves this desirable goal.

The Board of Directors of the Agency endorses this reorganization plan. We have always had and continue to have a close working relationship with the District of Columbia government. However, it is necessary to assure the District that such relationship will continue on a permanent basis by institutionalizing it. Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1968 accomplishes this efficiently without any interruption of the Agency's activities; and, therefore, I urge you to approve the plan.