

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that as Chairman of the RLA, I was ex officio member of the Board of the National Capital Housing Authority while Mayor Washington was Executive Director, and I have worked with him for the last 7 years in housing, and we have always worked very well together and I am very happy to have him control this Agency. We think we can get along fine.

Mr. BLATNIK. Well, Chairman Miller, it is a good statement, a short statement. I want the record to show further that it is a very modest statement in view of the splendid record of performance which has been yours under very difficult circumstances at times. In connection with the proposed inner loop and outer loop of the highway work, we had some relationship with the National Capital Planning Commission and certainly with your Redevelopment Land Agency. It has been a difficult problem. I think you have done a splendid job and we commend you for your leadership. The fine job that your associates in the Agency and on the executive staff have performed is also highly commendable.

I have just a question or two. Mr. Miller, could you briefly explain, for our information and for the record, the procedure that is now being followed, or has been followed until now, in initiating and carrying through urban renewal plans?

Mr. MILLER. Originally, the areas of urban renewal planning were designated by the National Capital Planning Commission, after studies—we helped study—and they went to the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners then approved the designation of the area. They sent it back to the National Capital Planning Commission to make the plan. The National Capital Planning Commission then made the plan and sent it back to the District Commissioners to approve the plan. And that was a very detailed plan as to where commercial buildings should be and where residential buildings should be. Then, when they approved the plan as drawn up, they referred it to the RLA for execution, and we participated in helping form the plan.

Mr. BLATNIK. That is the question. You do participate in the formulation?

Mr. MILLER. We help.

Mr. BLATNIK. In what manner, sort of an informal—

Mr. MILLER. Informally, yes. We provide—

Mr. BLATNIK. —line of communication, consulting?

Mr. MILLER. We work with them and then when the plan comes back to them, they refer it to us and we carry it out. Then if there is any change in the plan to be made, we have to go back through the same process of referring it to the National Capital Planning Commission to approve it. And now, instead of the Board of Commissioners approving it, the single Commissioner approves it. Before the urban renewal program was mostly under the jurisdiction of the Engineer Commissioner—General Clark, General Duke, and General Mathe at various times.

Mr. BLATNIK. And the Engineer Commissioner also had charge of the highway program, did he not?

Mr. MILLER. Yes.

Mr. BLATNIK. How would the highway program be coordinated and integrated with your Redevelopment Land Agency work as well as the National Capital Planning Commission?