

appeared a story under the title "Businessmen Object to Sacrifice Freeways Demand," from which the following is a direct quote:

"... just as the Oregon State Highway Department has started buying up right-of-way, a new problem has arisen:

"Who will recompense the hundreds of small business establishments in its path?

"Homeowners, of course, can simply sell out and find another home with more or less degree of inconvenience or emotional impact.

"But what about a small business, with a clientele built up slowly over the years, and with little or no reserve capital stashed away?

"And what about the lost income this little business is bound to suffer through relocation?

"Even if the business could be moved—where to? A strictly zoned metropolitan city such as Portland offers few opportunities to find a suitable substitute location.

"These were the questions flung at State and federal politicians and bureaucrats alike by a small group of businessmen in Southeast Portland at a public meeting called to seek support for relocation compensation.

"A freeway project costing millions in tax money should not be allowed to bankrupt small businesses in its path,' said Jack Jensen, owner of a dry cleaning establishment at 9543 SE Division St. . . .

"The state and federal agencies which finance and build the freeways pay only for the costs of moving the equipment to another location—and not very much at that, in most cases.

"The businessmen were told by state and federal representatives that this reimbursement for moving varied by statute from \$200 to \$3,000 maximum—no matter what the move cost.

"State Rep. Howard D. Willits, who was chairman of the meeting, commented that the politician frequently described the small business man as the backbone of the economy, especially during political campaigns, but when it came to protecting his interests in such cases of inequitable dislocations, he is woefully neglected.

"Adolph E. Susan, regional appraiser for the Federal Highway Administration (formerly Bureau of Public Roads) said it was indeed a deplorable situation and blamed it on the lawmakers who wrote the statutes allowing only reasonable and necessary moving expenses.'

"He said he was sympathetic and he thought members of Congress were, but until the law was changed nothing but sympathy could be dispensed in the matter of compensation."

On the basis of its findings, the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations made 14 recommendations for local, State, and Federal action to meet the problems of persons displaced by governments. The recommendations fell under six major headings: (a) uniformity of relocation advisory assistance and payments; (b) assignment of responsibility for determining relocation payments; (c) assurance of the availability of standard housing for displaced people; (d) financing of relocation costs; (e) modification of related Federal programs to ease the relocation process; and (f) local organization, technical assistance, and planning for relocation. For Federal action, it recommended:

"1. That the Congress establish a uniform policy of relocation payments and advisory assistance for persons and businesses displaced by direct Federal programs and by Federal grant-in-aid programs, and that the President direct that the necessary steps be taken to formulate regulations for carrying out such a policy.

"2. The Congress should require that State and local governments administering Federal grant programs assure the availability of standard housing before proceeding with any property acquisition that displaces people. This requirement should be at least comparable to that in Federal urban renewal legislation, assuring that (a) there is a feasible method for temporary relocation of displaced families and individuals, and that (b) there are or are being provided standard housing units within their financial means and in areas reasonably accessible to their places of employment.

"3. With respect to financing relocation payments under federally assisted programs, the full costs of payments to any person for relocating a family, and the costs of payments up to \$25,000 to any person relocating a business, should be completely reimbursed by the Federal Government; and the costs of business relocation payments in excess of that amount should be shared on the basis of the cost-sharing formula governing the particular program.