

Senator MUSKIE. We thank you very much, Professor Sternlieb and that bell indicates that we are going to be voting before long. Thank you very much.

Mr. STERNLIEB. Thank you, sir.

(The statements of Mr. Sternlieb follows:)

# STATEMENT OF DR. GEORGE STERNLIEB ON THE ROLE OF RELOCATION IN AMERICAN SOCIETY

## INTRODUCTION

The fact of relocation is a constant on the American scene. It is the essential and faithful companion of the technological changes which are continually altering our lifeways, and the relationship between man and his environment. The necessity for relocation will not go away. There is every reason to believe that its necessity will, if anything, increase over time. Its present magnitude, encompassing more than 100,000 individuals and families, to say nothing of its future prospective growth, means that every feasible tool of analysis should be applied

## GOVERNMENTAL VERSUS CORPORATE RELOCATION

Little notice is presently taken of the executive transfer, though the role of many suburbs is increasingly to provide transient accommodations. This is accepted as being an essential part of the growth of American corporate might from a local to a national and even international level. The individuals in question typically are buffered by substantial relocation payments by their respective firms, not infrequently including guarantees against loss on the sale of their homes, travel money for their wives to aid in the selection of new facilities, and even the taking of title of their past homes by the parent corporation.

The growth of highways, the changing role of our cities, generates an equally inexorable logic in the relocation of people who all too commonly are at the other end of the economic spectrum—the poor. Here the Federal Government has a relationship with its citizenry not too dissimilar from that of the major corporation—the I.B.M., The Scott Paper, The Union Carbide with its work force. The contrast in the execution of its responsibilities, however, is unmistakable. While the corporate transferee typically has some freedom of choice—he can move or not move—stay with firm or change jobs as he will, the individual caught in the face of a highway route, or major urban rehaul, does not have this option. He is faced—and quite properly—with the overwhelming competence of the government through the medium of eminent domain. This entails a far greater responsibility on the part of the government in treating with the citizens so displaced, than is the case with the corporation.

The contrast, however, between the treatment accorded the individual by the private enterprise, as contrasted with the government, is very sorry indeed. According to a recent Wall Street Journal article, the corporate transferee is commonly securing as much as \$2,000 in benefits as a function of the shift to say nothing of the pay increases which may attend transfers.

The public transferee on the other hand, secures only a tenth of this at best. Not uncommonly as will be detailed below, he is not even aware of the benefits, modest though they may be, and must expend his very limited means to move himself with all of the attendant expenses that are involved. All too frequently the officials involved in a program do not view it as their affair to acquaint the individual with the limited benefits which the government does make available, but rather view their role essentially as a passive one, i.e., to handle calls for relocation payments only upon request.

Despite the strong wording of remedial legislation, there is still the gap between relocation aid as a right and obligation of the government as against its being a privilege—even though at best a most modest one. Given the strains inherent in our society, this is an attitude which cannot be tolerated. Much improvement has been made in relocation procedures, but much still remains to be done.

## HOUSING AND URBAN ECOLOGY

The concept of the city as being something more than an end in itself, i.e., an institution which must be reinforced in terms of its own life cycle, has been behind much renewal thinking in the United States. More and more, we realize