

tion between highway departments, HUD, the Justice Department, and the rest of them.

To finish up—because you can read the rest of this testimony—during the past 5 years the fight in Camden to represent the poor has been met with derisive comments. The power structure has steadfastly maintained that the progress they planned must be obtained even at the expense of human beings. We do not believe that progress can be obtained at the expense of people. To trample all over and to destroy people is not progress.

Today we have asked you and this Nation to do some very difficult things. Pay attention to what the people are saying, pay attention to what those who are being displaced have to go through. They are suffering badly because of your programs. There are powerful economic interests alined against these proposals. The head of the housing authority in the city of Camden is a man named McComb, no big name here, but it is a big name back home, because he is the head of the Central Labor Union. So he heads up the housing authority and the Central Labor Union. We know where the contracts are going to go for urban renewal. They are going to go with the companies that his union are in. We cannot get this man off that housing authority. We have got two to resign this past week. The Governor changed one of his appointments for us, the city council is supporting our request to get rid of the other two. We would like to see the Federal Government maybe getting involved with the support of black construction companies, black labor unions. We would like to see black architects plan the poverty areas, because black people know what is happening. They know what is happening in their communities.

The problem of urban renewal is that those who do not live there are planning it, are executing it, and are making the money at it.

The talk in the inner city is either they stop doing this stuff or we will stop them our own way.

Either urban renewal comes our way or it does not come at all. We of the inner city do not trust urban renewal. We do not trust it because we have never been allowed to participate in it. We do not trust it because we have seen it destroy people. We do not believe that you have a workable program. We do not believe that HUD enforces workable programs. We know it, because we have seen it in action. Across this country in Harlem, in Bedford-Stuyvesant, in Watts, South Philadelphia, and North Camden, people are willing to say and to back it up, "No renewal unless we do it."

We believe that the Government must act to help all the people—all of them to live better and more meaningful lives in our complex urban society. The Government is acting without the advice and consent of the poor, and without the advice and consent of those who are suffering because of their programs. The America of the poor is disenfranchised from our voice even in the advisory capacity, let alone in the decisionmaking capacity. The distance between this disenfranchisement and disenchantment is now indistinguishable. We of the inner city, white, blacks, Puerto Ricans, Mexican Americans, Indians—we need homes. We want to build. We want to build now. Set us free and include us in on all of this.

We are getting some of our problems solved in Camden, but we have had to raise sand. We can get a lot more accomplished, though,