

if you the Congress start acting. This is a matter of survival to us and this is exactly what it is—the need to survive. The days of reminiscing for us are over. We can no longer talk about the old days. We cannot hold cocktail parties and card parties. We are trying to make it. We need a new module. We need a new value system, a new survival kit. We want the option of living in the city or moving out. Some of us love city life and we want to stay, and we want it right. At best, all of us are strangers in this land, and at least help us live in safe, decent, sanitary houses.

We have come to help you straighten out your programs. You are kind of messed up.

Mr. Sharp?

STATEMENT OF CHARLES SHARP, CHAIRMAN, BLACK PEOPLES' UNION MOVEMENT

Mr. SHARP. Thank you.

My name is Charles Sharp, chairman of the Black People's Union Movement in the city of Camden, N.J.

The purpose of this organization is to see that black people receive adequate representation, something in which we black people in the city of Camden have not received on all levels. Educationally we do not get representation, economically we do not have representation, politically we do not have representation. About this urban renewal—needless to say, there is no representation.

Urban renewal is a big problem in the city of Camden, N.J. Needless to say, it is a problem all over America, maybe because it deals with black people. The removal of black people. But I have to confine my comments to the city of Camden, because that is where I am from—my roots are there. And we, the black people of the city of Camden have been pushed into a pocket, a pocket that is filled with disease. It is a cancer and it is eating at us and it is going to destroy us unless we, the black people take the necessary steps to alleviate this problem or to alleviate this disease.

We want to live. We have a need to live. We want to raise families. We want to educate our children. We want to be able to, on a sunny day, sit out in the park and enjoy the sunshine, the flowers. How can we do this in a white power structure in the city, in the state. And the national Government refuses to hear the plea of the black man; and by now, giving us some sort of attention, you are forcing the black man to do the only thing that is left to do, and that is to go into the streets and fight. Either free himself or kill himself.

You, the Senator, this committee, these committees—you have a chance to free yourself as well as free black people. And the only way that you can do that is to pass the laws that you can pass. You wrote up this bill which you had to have a vote in which to pass it, and it was passed. But you will not write up a bill and have it voted upon so that it will be a workable bill. This is not workable. I do not understand the legality or the technicalities of this bill. All I know is that black people are suffering; for instance, the Shields family—Mr. and Mrs. Shields, who lived in the city of Camden, who were asked to move from their home because the highway was coming through. They moved from one location to another location—from one dilapidated building