

In that report, the Commission analyzed governmental policies and practices in relocation cases at all levels of Government. One of the report's basic conclusions was that persons and businesses displaced by Federal, State, and local level by public works and other programs, are entitled to assistance and relocation, and this title extends to lessees and tenants as well as to owners of homes and businesses.

The National Urban League concurs in this conclusion and offers the following recommendations to implement the Commission's findings:

1. Provide for the full cost of relocation of persons or businesses displaced by Federal, State or local public improvement programs;
2. Monitor the enforcement of regulations to insure that all displaced persons—owners and tenants—are given advisory assistance and the services needed to find decent, alternative housing; and
3. Require proof of available alternative housing before the release of Federal grants-in-aid funds.

Among the nine major findings of the Commission's study, two are extremely important and of special interest to the National Urban League, and are worthy of note here:

1. "The worst problem in relocating families and individuals is the shortage of standard substitute housing for low income groups."
2. "Nonwhites have the most difficult relocation problems of all population groups. This comes from their general lower economic and educational status; the impact of urban renewal and code enforcement programs on neighborhoods where they are concentrated; and public and private practices that restrict their access to housing."

These findings by the Commission support the statements I have made here today. Negroes and other minorities are placed under a sort of legalized "double jeopardy." This double jeopardy consists of the inadequate policies of the Government which, at best, overwhelms those at the low end of the economic totem pole, and the all-too-frequent failure of local officials to even advise the poor about the limited benefits and assistance provided by law.

We commend this subcommittee for the comprehensive legislation it has proposed to deal with the problems of relocation payments and assistance available to persons and businesses displaced. The National Urban League believes the bill, S. 698, to be extremely important and timely. While by our very nature we can add little technical knowledge to the proposed legislation, I believe that some thought must be given to the relationship of past practices to the Nation's most critical problem.

Much has been said and written in recent years and days, and even hours, I suppose, about riots, civil disorders, civil disobedience, and breakdown of law and order. But not very much has been said about justice. Not much is being done to mend strained relations which threaten to rend the Nation into "two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal."

The past practices of Government at the State, local, and Federal levels in regard to relocation have strongly tightened the noose of the white community around the black ghettos in America. While we beef-up our police departments and train our National Guard units in our long-range plans for improving the center cities, conditions that sparked the disorders in the past are growing worse.