

The population of our ghetto is growing at a fantastic rate. 500,000 more people will be living in the ghettos of America by the end of this year, as compared with the beginning of the year. By 1985, which is not too remote for those of us who look to that year as being possible in our existence, the Negro population in our central cities will increase by 72 per cent.

In concluding, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that meaningful action must be taken to avoid even more destructive civil disorders in the months and years ahead—disorders which will surely be costly in terms of human lives as well as the loss of public and private property.

This is not to deny that some movement has been made. Indeed, we have made movement. We have made advances through social legislation such as the Economic Opportunity Act, the Civil Rights Acts, the Manpower Development and Training Act, and even some aspects of the urban renewal highway construction bill.

But the racial gap still widens.

What we need is a national commitment to seek a solution to the country's problems—a sense of national urgency that we have not seen before.

For the poor people, many of whom are in this city today, there is a "light at the end of a tunnel" and they are running fast to reach the affluent society which they believe lies at the end of the tunnel. Their race to the end of the tunnel is a determined race and it will not be stopped by repression—not even in the form of concentration camps or detention centers. We must meet the demands for human dignity—the clarion cry for a share in the American dream.

We believe the provisions of S. 698, not only the particular title to which I have devoted most of my time, but other sections, are a step in the right direction. This bill and other progressive legislation may extend hope to the despairing and faith to the cynic. If it does, this bill and this committee will have rendered a major service to the Nation.

Senator MUSKIE. Thank you very much, Mr. Freeland. We will hear from Mrs. Jefferies now, and after that we will have a few questions.

Mrs. JEFFERIES. I am Murice Jefferies, community organizer of the neighborhood development center. We are located only a few blocks from here in the Northwest One Urban Renewal area. I started at the center in 1965 as a neighborhood worker. I am also a displaced person of the Northwest One Urban Renewal area, and I was hired to work with my neighbors and friends around urban renewal projects in this community.

The neighborhood development center serves the area that is Northwest One Urban Renewal. Directly across from our center is the route of the center leg freeway, and about two blocks north of our center is the Shaw urban renewal area; so all around us some type of public work is going on.

I have submitted to the committee copies of my testimony "Pierce Street: An Urban Renewal Experience, Two Years Later." Because of its length, I will only read or speak to some of its contents.

The neighborhood advisory council of the Urban League Neighborhood Development Center published a report in August, 1966 relating to the experiences of families relocated from Pierce Street in the