

read parts of it. I have one or two general questions I would like to put, in addition to those that the chairman has already put.

First, Mr. Freeland, if I may, is the use of something like a staging program or its equivalent in general use in the country or generally advocated in the country?

Mr. FREELAND. I think it is advocated, Senator, but I do not believe it is in general use.

Senator BAKER. Do you think of any particular locality where they have made notable progress in trying to implement a staging plan?

Mr. FREELAND. This I do not have. I will try to make available to the committee such information as we have at the National Urban League, and perhaps other agencies that have been involved in this field also might supply you with information.

Senator BAKER. Well, I agree with both of you and with the chairman, that some sort of coherent plan for the accommodation of those who are displaced in the name of progress must be undertaken to help in this dislocation area.

Let me put the second general question to either of you: do you attach particular significance to the apparent tendency to concentrate available relocation housing in certain areas versus the concept of trying to disperse it more generally throughout other neighborhoods in the city? I am really trying to balance the equities of trying to preserve some semblance of community identity which would go with concentration of replacement housing versus the equity of trying to disperse it, thereby creating the possibility of avoiding, once again, a concentration or isolation of the community in new structures.

I wonder if either of you care to comment on that.

Mrs. JEFFERIES. From my own experience, sir (I think I got the question), of living in substandard housing, I wanted good housing in a good neighborhood for my family. So, this is where I looked, but this is also where I could not afford to live. I had no money to purchase a house, and I could not afford the rents, so then you look somewhere else. You know, you still—your hopes are still high.

So, when it boils down, you get anything you can, any place you can.

Senator BAKER. I understand that, Mrs. Jefferies, but the point I am trying to develop in a rather awkward way, I am afraid, is whether or not you see some merit in trying to concentrate replacement housing in one area, which more or less resembles the concentration of a neighborhood that was displaced, or whether there is some merit in trying to disperse the replacements, by relocating them throughout a more general neighborhood so there is not the tendency to concentrate?

That is the point I am trying to make.

Mr. FREELAND. I think ideally, Senator, I understand the thrust of your question, and I think ideally in America it would be the dispersal of displaced persons in the general housing market, and not another area of concentration for the creation of another black ghetto.

However you point out identity—retention of the community identity—I think the Negro community of America has reached the point, at least, in the majority of the large cities, that they feel that the kind of dispersement which is ideal, which was considered ideal at least a year ago, may not be capable of attainment and, therefore, wherever here is decent safe and sanitary housing these bodies should be placed.