

for a downpayment and might contemplate some sort of subsidy of interest payments?

Mrs. JEFFERIES. Yes. We do have in our area homes that will be for sale that we have worked to get. Some will be rehabilitated and sold to low-income families with a small downpayment and the monthly payments would only be, you know, so much. And then there are six demonstration homes, and the people are interested in trying to buy, it is wonderful to see. You know, here is something that I can afford to buy. They are applying for these homes and hoping that they will be one of the families. There are hundreds of families applying for less than 20 homes.

Senator BAKER. Do you feel that this approach might have collateral benefits above and beyond the simple matter of accommodating replacees or relocatees in sanitary, safe, decent housing?

Mrs. JEFFERIES. Yes.

Senator BAKER. It might have some effect on the matter of pride and ambition and dignity that are so sought after.

Mrs. JEFFERIES. I think so.

Senator BAKER. I wonder, then, if I am not struggling with the witnesses for a plan that would accommodate staging or planning on a methodical basis for the purposes of relocatees in the progress of highways and urban renewal. There is the pragmatic necessity of providing for them immediately, and as best we can. Generous elements of the desirability of Federal or governmental assistance to homeownership, which would carry with it then the element of discretion for the location of neighborhoods that might not otherwise appear if you build large concentrated housing units to accommodate relocatees should be included in the plan.

I wonder if that is not where we are reaching. I wonder, to put it in the form of a question, would that general format have some general appeal for either or both of you?

Mr. FREELAND. I think it does. I think the Government insurance or the combination of Government and private guarantees which would make available for Negroes housing that could be purchased is an ideal situation. There are a number of matters which are presently before the Congress, and also other matters that are before Congress and before the leadership of the Nation that would point toward this, and I would hope that these would receive approval, and I would hope also that they would be involved in the whole matter of relocation.

It is a bigger part of the solution, more than this particular problem, the solution that you suggest, and I think it is a wise solution.

Senator BAKER. Well, it is more than just this. Of course, we find this problem in areas where you do not have urban renewal and highway projects. I am distressed to find that so often we replace old slums with new slums, and I think there must be a way to overcome this tendency.

I see homeownership as one of the ways, and I wonder if we should not devote more of our attention to making it easier to buy a home.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator MUSKIE. Thank you, Senator. Thank you, Mr. Freeland and Mrs. Jefferies. I am sure we could be further enlightened if we could keep you longer, but we have two other witnesses we ought to hear.