

Senator TYDINGS. Mr. Chairman, I might say that Senator Baker has put his finger on a very, very sensitive point. In my judgment, the condemnation procedures of this Government in urban renewal and highways are extremely unfair. We have before the Public Works Committee, as you are well aware, a study of this whole area and its relationship to public roads. And Chairman Randolph is very concerned.

We have now pending before the Judiciary Committee an amendment in relation to condemnation, what is fair compensation, and I certainly would encourage you to get involved in this area and to try and right some wrongs, because they certainly need to be righted.

Senator MUSKIE. Senator Hansen?

Senator HANSEN. Well, first, let me thank you very much, Senator Tydings, for your contribution this morning. I do think that there may possibly be another group of people deserving of our attention. I refer to those, not leaseholders but property owners, who by virtue of their age do not have the aggressiveness necessary to move into a new area and to start up business again. I think they might also be reasonable objects of our concern, because those people are in a neighborhood where they have grown up, where their roots are deep and their friends are many. They could produce, and it is likely that they would, perhaps five or ten more years of profitable activity; but to say at age 55, we will pay you the fair market value and perhaps give you a little more in addition for the inconvenience and the other costs that will be incident to your moving, is not enough. You are not going to find people at that age willing to go out and to establish new businesses, try to make new friends—I think this is implicit in Mr. Mitchell's testimony.

When people reach a certain age, they do not have the zip that is necessary for them to reestablish themselves. I have some deep feelings about this whole process of condemnation; I have seen it applied in my county and I know how it affects people.

You can uproot a young couple and though it may be difficult, they can make the adjustment. Senator Baker has addressed himself very ably to that point. However it becomes increasingly difficult, in my judgment, for older people to make the transition, and as a consequence, I think they are likely not to reinvest, they are likely to take the money. Because of this, I would like to know what the policy of the Government is insofar as the awards that may be made—what the tax liabilities are. It is my understanding generally, and I am not expert in this area at all, that within a reasonable time you can reinvest and escape some taxes that otherwise would apply.

I think that the aged persons who are involved in the Government's exercise of the right of eminent domain ought to be considered, along with other factors, in determining how our Government can treat these people.

Senator TYDINGS. I think this whole area is one where you can be of immense public service.

Senator MUSKIE. Thank you very much.

Senator TYDINGS. This legislation is long overdue. Thank you.

Senator MUSKIE. Thank you, Senator Tydings.