

mandate and a special budget that will allow the total revitalization of small enterprises affected by public action.

NBL does not believe that public improvement activities requiring relocation of citizens and their function should be ipso facto regarded as disasters, nor should such actions be associated with disaster assistance. If the Small Business Act is to be amended, it should be so changed as to provide a program of special assistance to the little business that is adversely affected by public action.

The NBL criticism of the proposed amendment described on page 40, commencing at line 12, is that it places the burden of proof of economic injury on the little fellow with limited resources. Any agency employee can determine that there has been only slight economic injury and effectively preclude the entrepreneur from assistance. It would be far better to make anyone who is touched at all by public actions indicating relocation in the interest of survival, eligible for the special SBA assistance we have described.

For in any objective evaluation of SBA participants or clients, those who are most easily declared ineligible for assistance are likely to be those who are most likely to succeed with reasonable SBA aid.

In summary then, we suggest a special SBA assistance program for businesses adjacent to or in areas affected by public action; we suggest that section 804 be made more explicit in calling out the extent of mandatory compliance by local agencies acting as alter ego for the Federal Government and that provisions for the ample funding of the several programs and policies set forth be clearly identified and earmarked.

Thank you very much.

Senator MUSKIE. Thank you, Mr. Burrell, for your excellent testimony. It is just the kind of thing we want.

May I say, first of all, that it is the intent of this legislation by making it 100 percent federally funded to insure that its provisions are made available across the country. Several suggestions have been received in the course of the testimony to insure that there is adequate followup to protect those who have been designed to be benefited by the legislation, and this followup function is an important one.

We will look at the legislation to insure that we have done all that we can to protect it.

With respect to adequate fundings, unfortunately, we are not the Appropriations Committee. We can write what we think ought to be the goals, and we certainly will, but there is no way that we can write in here anything that will tie the hands of the Appropriations Committee, and I would not want to abuse you on that score.

Mr. BURRELL. Well, I would say, Senator Muskie, the best thing in the testimony this morning, I think, first, the testimony is tough to follow. I think they were excellent witnesses.

Senator MUSKIE. Well, might I say that although you disclaimed any expertise in this field, your testimony waters down your disclaimer.

Mr. BURRELL. Well, listening to them, and then to hear the response of the gentlemen present, I am just amazed by the concern of you gentlemen as it relates to the kind of legislation that we eventually get. Either you are the finest public servants we have, or it is tough to assemble them all in one room, to march with the same banner to accomplish these great public services.