

Our witness concluded "that the whole thing is eventually going to erode the whole city."

Thus, even while urban renewal areas are being rebuilt, the process of decay in other parts of the community is accelerated. There is some doubt whether programs such as urban renewal can be completely successful if, while concentrating on the revitalization of one part of the community, they contribute, through inadequate attention to factors such as overcrowding, to the deterioration of others.

I am not suggesting that the legislation you are considering can be designed to resolve all of these problems. Nor do I intend to deprecate the requirements for financial and counseling assistance to displaced families. These are necessary and indeed, represent a part of the answer. As you recognize, however, much more is necessary if these requirements are to be of maximum effectiveness.

First, they must be carried out with energy and compassion by Federal and State officials—officials who are willing to hold up a public improvement program until they are assured that relocation is satisfactory, not only in statistical terms, but in terms of the needs and desires of the families involved. There is some evidence that this has not been the case in the past—that program administrators have considered relocation more of an obstacle to the operation of the program than an inherent part of it, which must be satisfied if the program is to succeed. One way of meeting this program is to divorce the responsibility for relocation from that of program operation, giving the relocation officials the authority to hold up the program until they are satisfied that relocation will be successful. I understand that HUD has instituted such a procedure in the urban renewal program and I believe it warrants serious consideration by all other agencies which operate programs, involving displacement.

Sympathetic and vigorous administration of relocation assistance programs, however, will not be enough. As one commentator has pointed out: "What is needed is not counseling but an expansion of the supply of low-cost housing." We recognize that low-income housing legislation is not being considered as part of the bill before you, nor is it specifically within the jurisdiction of this committee. I wish to stress, however, that unless the supply of low-income housing is expanded on an unprecedented scale, through the expansion of existing Government subsidy programs and the enactment of additional programs capable of producing low-income housing in volume, relocation will be a continuing and increasing problem. There is a bill pending on the floor right now which, if enacted, can make a substantial contribution towards providing the kind of expansion in the supply of lower income housing that is needed.

I also wish to stress that the success of relocation cannot be judged solely in terms of the proportion of displaced families who relocate in standard housing. The problems facing our cities today stem not only from poverty and inadequate living conditions, but also from the growing trend toward racial and economic separation. Relocation in the past has tended to intensify the isolation of the poor, and particularly the nonwhite poor. Under the bill in its present form, there is little reason to believe that the experience will not be the same.

Mr. Chairman, this trend toward racial and economic separation must not be allowed to continue. The Civil Disorders Commission, after