

gain. But we compensated for this in our appraisal by putting 90 percent damage against isolated land. It is much better to pay the man pretty close to the value of the land, let it move at a very modest price over into somebody else's ownership, keep the land in the county and in the township, keep it on the tax rolls than to have it go into the Government where the only way you can get it out is by an Act of Congress, as you know. It takes a private bill to move it out. This is just too difficult to do.

We can pay him all right so he has no loss and somebody over on the adjacent farm will pick it up.

Now, if it is just a small amount of land, we believe the Federal Government should pick up the transfer costs. I have seen pieces of land no bigger than that newspaper lying up there, that were left. I have seen them take pieces of land that size, too. These get pretty minuscule.

I have also watched some irregularity of taking where—and I remember a house on Long Island on the interstate up there—which I appraised. The line of taking went up to just about the middle of the house, if you think of it being like a square. Then they moved 6 inches away from the foundation of the house on two sides, went on down the middle of the far side and went on down the line. Now, by any rule of reason the house should have been taken, because no residence is worth anything when you have no land against it, unless you are a townhouse and then you have made provisions for that kind of situation.

Now, this kind of irregularity gives an appraiser and the landlord fits. We could not appraise this one—when we came up to the building, we would allow 60 percent damage and we would go further when they jogged around it like this. But here is something sitting here like a sore thumb that has no business being on the right of way and they have no way of moving it. This irregularity of some of these takings is a problem that somebody could very well deal with so they would run relatively straight lines. It is better for the Government anyway. They get an irregularity and they have the problem of fencing around it and all of the interstates have to be fenced. They had better take the house and get it out of the way, because what they saved was about 30 percent of that house and they left an angry community. This is not the way to run a government, in my judgment.

The negotiating that goes on after the appraiser has conducted his business is a real problem. We were instructed to arrive at the best value that we could. Frankly, our appraisals for condemnation were higher than the same appraisals for tax purposes. We were making the appraisal level that could be negotiated in our judgment.

Now, this is what happens, and this bill deals directly with it. (I do not know whether you knew this happened or not, from somebody who had really worked with it.) But I do know what has happened. In the State of New York, where I worked most of the time, a man came out from the bureau of public roads. He had a little blue stamp about as big as a nickel. He put that down in front of the appraisal and he placed a figure in that. That figure had no relationship to our appraisal at all. This was the negotiating figure. Then the negotiator from the bureau of roads came out. He second guessed this.