

without discrimination, to any merchant in need thereof, regardless of the business in which he might be engaged. The people in the alcoholic beverage industry have been discriminated against by this Agency over a period of many years. This unwarranted determination was inaugurated by administrative fiat by a Loan Policy Board, since abolished, and cannot be supported by any Congressional enactment. This unlawful policy, which bars people in the alcoholic beverage field from even applying for a needed loan, has been perpetuated by successive Administrators.

After the Newark and Detroit disorders of last year, both cities were eventually declared disaster areas. The Small Business Administration at that time stated it was seriously considering the removal of the alcohol beverage industry from its proscribed list; now, eight months later, it is still making the same statement, but it still has done nothing to place the industry on an equal footing with other industries.

Nevertheless, every effort should be made to provide expeditiously the necessary economic data to the Small Business Administration so that this city might be declared a disaster area and the processing of applications of those in need of assistance might go forward without any further delay. Many of our merchants will need these loans; they were either underinsured or had no insurance, nor do they have sufficient capital to re-establish themselves. Government assistance thus could play an important role in the rehabilitation process.

These ideas, we believe, present a program necessary to rehabilitate and revitalize the city. It is recognized that there must be a long range program as well, but unless we can achieve this suggested immediate program we will never be able to reach the long range goals, which are:

1. Elimination of poverty
2. Better housing
3. More jobs
4. More schools
5. Better education
6. More recreation and playgrounds, with school facilities, such as gymnasiums and libraries, all open each evening for use of the public.

The foregoing we are convinced, presents reasonable and equitable ideas for rebuilding. We recognize that the program can only go forward if there is complete cooperation among all of the citizens, business community, the city authorities, and the Federal Government. But once the program is formulated, let it go forward with a minimum of red tape and a determination to build a better future.

Mr. WHITENER. We will be glad to hear from you now, Mr. Liss.

STATEMENT OF ABE LISS, PRESIDENT, MIDTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Mr. LISS. Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Subcommittee.

I am the President of the Midtown Business Association, consisting of 100 members. We support H.R. 16948.

LACK OF PROTECTION

I would like to comment on some of the things I have heard here. I think there has been too much talk about shooting, whether we should shoot or whether we should not shoot. I watched this disturbance with my own eyes, and since that day I guess I have been interviewed more than anybody in the country, on the radio and in the newspapers. And I was on television last night for three hours.

Everybody seems to ask the same question: Is it my firm conviction that the police in Washington were told to show restraint and that they followed orders and did a commendable job? They showed restraint. No building is worth the price of one human life; however,