

Mr. WINN. You might get rich that way.

Mr. WHITENER. Thank you.

Mr. LISS. Thank you.

Mr. WHITENER. Our next witness is Mr. Charles Warden.

STATEMENT OF CHARLES WARDEN, JR., ON BEHALF OF THE OWNERS OF A BUILDING AT 14TH AND IRVING STS., WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. WARDEN. Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee.

My name is Charles Warden. I am here on behalf of the owners of a building at the corner of 14th Street and Irving Street, and I appear this morning in support of the bill, H.R. 16948, to provide funds for the removal of the remains of buildings destroyed in the riots last month.

I want to thank Mr. Friedel for introducing this bill and you, Mr. Whitener, for holding the hearings on it.

This building is owned by three widows, one of whom is my mother-in-law. When they were young and their families were growing up, they lived and worked in this building. Today, with their husbands passed away and their families raised, these three ladies look to this property as the sole source of income and their main security in life. One of these three ladies still lived in the building on the day of the riots and, when the building was destroyed, lost with it everything she did not carry out: letters, pictures, clothes, furniture—those things which put substance into memories.

But, aside from the emotional and psychological anguish, this situation has brought real financial hardship. The property, of course, was insured—but, apparently at less than half its replacement cost. And there was no income insurance, so the income from the building ceased immediately.

On top of this they are faced with the unimaginable burden of trying to tear down and remove what is now an unsafe building. By letter of April 12, the Department of Licenses and Inspections invoked an Act of Congress of March 1, 1899, and directed them to start the removal of the building within one business day. The directive was impossible to obey. They responded immediately to the Department, stating that they were unable to carry out this order with their own resources in such a short time and asked the District Government for assistance in complying with this order. With the Committee's permission, I will insert a copy of that letter in the record.

Their situation is not unique, I am sure. These widows have lost their source of income. There has been the cost of boarding up the building so that children and passersby do not get hurt, a bill which ran over \$800. And now they face the enormous expense of removing the rubble, which has been estimated to cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000. So they need whatever help they can be given.

But, Mr. Chairman, as an economist which I am by profession, I see an even more compelling reason for granting assistance to people facing this unusual problem. We all know that the land owners and businessmen in these areas must play a major role in this if it is to succeed. Yet, if steps are not quickly taken to preserve the meager capital base of these people, they will have no capital left to rebuild