the Board for the Condemnation of Insanitary Buildings. Under normal circumstances said Condemnation Board takes action against the owner of Insanitary Buildings with the knowledge that said owner had prior knowledge as to the condition of his building and had adequate time within which to make the necessary repairs or remodeling. In this current case the owner had no prior knowledge and did not in any way cause, or allow to be caused, the damage that was suffered on April 5, 1968.

On April 11, 1968, I called two demolition contractors with whom we had dealt regularly in the past. To date I have received bids from neither one. Last week one of these contractors did call me to state that he had run into the following problems:

1. A job on 14th Street, Northwest, which should have taken three days was running into its third week due to the spectators throwing rocks and bricks at the work crews.
2. His insurance company had refused to insure the party walls on his job.

It is my firm belief that as long as the rubble remains on the streets as evidence of past violence it will continue to generate new violence. There has been a fire or a burglary or a looting on the 1000-to-1100 blocks of 7th Street, Northwest, every day since the weekend of April 5th. We have employed a security guard to protect our premises every night since May 1, 1968. Tenants coming into my office are fearful of what has happened and what may happen. Prospective tenants refuse to consider in-town northwest locations.

The plumbers, electricians, and stove repair men performing services for us are subject to a minimum of verbal abuse every day. The stove repair firm sends a minimum of two men on every job these days, whereas prior to April 5th, they would send one man. Other repair men have been chased off of their jobs—jobs which are being done in compliance with orders written by the Housing Division.

Insurance companies, if not refusing to renew expiring coverage because "the property does not meet our underwriting requirements", are renewing at six times the "Manual" rate.

Many of the above problems arise due to the inability of the Police Department to maintain law and order.

And my day-to-day is not complete if, every afternoon between 3 and 5 o'clock, I do not hear one fire department engine going up 7th Street.

Government's Responsibility

Even if, in normal times, the owner of a destroyed property were financially capable of completing the demolition and clearance of said property at his own cost and expense, under the conditions existing today, he is barely able to maintain his other properties—if he has any from which to draw income—much less bear the additional and unforeseeing expense of demolition of the destroyed property.