

Mr. WINN. I would be willing to bet you that at least 25 percent more money will be required to deal with clearing problems that are unseen now, when you start taking those buildings out.

Mr. DRIPPS. I hope it will not be that much.

Mr. WASHINGTON. Let me ask you this—what about a building that has a basement—what do you do about filling the hole that is left?

Mr. DRIPPS. The contract documents which we have prepared required that for safety and for sanitary reasons, our contract requires that the basement be excavated and that the basement cement be broken up to provide drainage of the water. It will be filled and then a layer of gravel will be placed over it and properly graded.

Mr. WASHINGTON. So what you contemplate, if this bill is passed, is that the District Government will assume the expense of leveling the lots, so to speak?

Mr. DRIPPS. Yes, sir.

Mr. WASHINGTON. And this will not be at the expense of the property owner?

Mr. DRIPPS. That is correct.

Mr. WINN. Are you talking about a requirement that will require the basement to be excavated?

Mr. DRIPPS. Yes, sir. If there is rubble and debris.

Mr. WINN. There is plenty of that. So you will clean those out and you will get into the possibility of the footings and the structural foundation endangering the building next door.

Mr. DRIPPS. That is a possibility.

Mr. WINN. And many times machines being used are quite damaging to buildings not yet disturbed; is that not right?

Mr. DRIPPS. I think that there may be only one or two where we might have adjoining damage. The buildings there can be preserved. Our surveys will show that.

Mr. WINN. You have been more thorough than I have. I thought that I saw quite a few standing.

Mr. DRIPPS. Many of those have since been burned and they are gone.

Mr. WINN. I cannot keep up with them.

Thank you.

Mr. WHITENER. Thank you, gentlemen, for your appearance.

What is your name?

STATEMENT OF GEORGE ROTH, PROPERTY OWNER

Mr. ROTH. My name is George Roth. I have four stores that were burned to the ground in the area, Eighth Street, Northeast.

Mr. WHITENER. I know about that.

Mr. ROTH. Three of them were burned down on the night of the big rioting, then two weeks later the Standard Drug, another store, was burned. It was completely destroyed.

Mr. WHITENER. They were set on fire two different times?

Mr. ROTH. That is right—that is correct. I want to be very brief. I want to make some comments on insurance. What I want to say is this—who are we going to have to do this? The stores that are leased there were occupied by large firms, such as Penney, National Shirt, Standard Drug.