

Mr. Dowdy. I will say this: This committee is attempting to provide parking lots, I don't know whether we will get the cooperation everywhere that is necessary, and also as far as the police we are trying to get them under some sort of organization where they won't have the restrictions placed on them to keep them from protecting people. We are doing what we can along that line.

Mr. HINES. Yes, sir, one other thing before we adjourn or we will recess ourselves from your presence, on this Black United Front thing, I would like to make one statement on that. I think I voice the concern and what is in the minds of most of the working people in this community, I know in our union, I think it is a disgrace that we have members of the City Council backing up such an organization as this: I am the first one to say don't cut out the right of free speech of anybody because we make our living off of free speech and the publicizing of it, publication of it. But I think it is a crime that members of the City Council have made it justifiable in the image of this Black United Front to kill a cop or kill anybody that stands in their way, and I think these people on the City Council if they don't have the good sense to resign after making such a statement, I think that action should be taken that they should be removed from the City Council, if necessary.

Mr. Dowdy. It was my understanding that probably this member of the City Council you are speaking of is backed up by the rest of them or at least the majority of the rest of the Council anyway.

Mr. HINES. Yes, it is really a shame that that thing has to go on.

Mr. MACHEN. I might just ask for the record—you all mentioned the buildings abandoned, are they government owned, do you know, or not?

Mr. HINES. I really couldn't tell you.

Mr. MACHEN. If we had someone from my office or the staff go down there and pinpoint these buildings where we could get the addresses and so forth then perhaps we could ascertain and what could be done.

Mr. HINES. I think the vice president of our union, Mr. Taylor, can probably tell you. He is probably more informed on that than most of us.

Mr. TAYLOR. The RLA does have title to these buildings. These have been condemned and 70 percent are unoccupied and the ones that are living there are living there on a 30-day notice.

Mr. Dowdy. If they were decent buildings the RLA would already have torn them down.

Mr. TAYLOR. This entire area from North Capitol to 1st Street Northwest and from H Street to I Street, if they could tear that down and put a parking lot in there it would answer a lot of the problems. There is nothing but a bunch of slums and most of the places have been condemned; at least 90 percent of this is owned by RLA but all of it facing on H Street adjacent to GPO has been acquired by RLA.

Mr. ROCHON. I think you will find also the triangle across the street from the Main Post Office borders on G Street and North Capitol and Massachusetts Avenue, most of that, I think is in the same position, and G Street, according to the Police Department, is the worst street in the area, the Government Printing Office, and, boy, they really have something over there, pool halls.

Mr. Dowdy. The most dangerous street you mean?