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STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN E. FOGARTY, SECOND DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCERNING THE AREA REDEVELOPMENT BILL, AUGUST 12, 1958

Mr. Speaker:

Housing and Home Finance Administrator Albert Cole has been reported in the press as saying that it would be far better if Congress were not to enact a Housing Bill this year than to pass either the bill approved by the Senate or the version reported by the Committee on Banking and Currency of this House.

Mr. Speaker, I submit that the failure to enact housing legislation during this session will deal a near fatal blow to the redevelopment programs in many of our cities. Capital grant authorization for this program is exhausted. Communities who have submitted applications, or who plan to submit applications, to the Urban Renewal Administration will be faced with an almost impossible dilemma, if the Congress fails to enact legislation during this session providing new authorizations for urban renewal.

Such cities will be required to either abandon their slum clearance programs, or undertake the projects with solely local funds. To follow the latter course is all but impossible, since cities are "low man on the totem pole" among the several levels of government as far as financial capacity and tax resources are concerned.

To follow the other alternative -- abandonment of the redevelopment program -- is to concede that the richest nation on earth is incapable of solving perhaps its No. 1 domestic problem -- the blight and slum conditions now threatening to destroy the tremendous human and economic resources which are our

urban areas.

It is inconceivable to me, Mr. Speaker, that the Congress could adjourn without meeting its responsibilities to the more than two-thirds of our people who live in cities. It is inconceivable that the relatively small differences in the amounts for urban renewal contained in the House and Senate bills could prevent our passing legislation so vital to the preservation of our cities. It is inconceivable to me that the Republican Administration through its Budget Bureau and its Housing Administrator could be so uncompromising in its opposition to this bill.