Governor Towner was a very active and capable official in assisting and helping the people of the island in every way possible, not only in his official capacity but also in a personal way. His sympathies and willingness to lend his services to the development of education, sanitation, and public works in Puerto Rico were unlimited. The people of the island and the leaders of every political party there loved and respected him. He accompanied commissions of the Legislature of Puerto Rico to Washington to ask the administration and Congress for progressive reforms to our Organic Act, and went so far as to suggest that the Puerto Rican people be given the right to elect their Governor. He was so much interested in the welfare of the people of Puerto Rico and their permanent union with the people of the United States that, while he was chairman of the Insular Affairs Committee, he drafted a bill intended to amend the Constitution of the United States, so as to create a special organized state outside the mainland in order that Puerto Rico might become a State of the Union as well as other Territories.

While he was our Governor, his messages to the insular legislature demonstrated that he was a true lover of the constitutional rights of the masses of workers, helping them to get better conditions of life through humanitarian laws, organization, and education. He always advised and recommended to the legislature of the island the enactment of progressive labor laws and the reform of the old reactionary ones.

Hon. Horace M. Towner worked hard for the benefit of all our people during his more than 4 years of duties as Governor of Puerto Rico, and the people there of all classes join in paying a tribute of gratitude and sympathy.

Governor Towner was another American soldier who worked faithfully for the progress, justice, and economic and political culture of the island, giving to the Nation everlasting credit and honor.

# Tarnish on the Violet Crown

# EXTENSION OF REMARKS

## HON. MORRIS SHEPPARD OF TEXAS

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES Thursday, February 3 (legislative day of Wednesday, January 5), 1938

RADIO ADDRESS BY HON. LYNDON B. JOHNSON, OF TEXAS, ON JANUARY 23, 1938

Mr. SHEPPARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be inserted in the RECORD a radio address delivered by Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson, Representative from the Tenth District of Texas, at Austin, Tex., on January 23, 1938, entitled "Tarnish on the Violet Crown."

There being no objection, the address was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Last Christmas, when all over the world people were celebrating the birth of the Christ child. I took a walk here in Austin—a short walk, just a few short blocks from Congress Avenue, and there I walk, just a few short blocks from Congress Avenue, and there I found people living in such squalor that Christmas Day was to them just one more day of filth and misery. Forty families on one lot, using one water faucet. Living in barren one-room huts, they were deprived of the glory of sunshine in the daytime, and were so poor they could not even at night use the electricity that is to be generated by our great river. Here the men and women did not play at Santa Claus. Here the children were so much in need of the very essentials of life that they scarcely missed the added pleasures of our Christian celebration. added pleasures of our Christian celebration.

## TYPICAL SLUM FAMILY

I found one family that might almost be called typical. Living rithin one dreary room, where no single window let in the beneficent sunlight, and where not even the smallest vagrant breeze brought them relief in the hot summer—here they slept, here they cooked and ate, here they washed themselves in a leaky tin tub after carrying the water for 100 yards. Here they brought up their children ill-nourished and amid sordid surroundings. And on this

Christmas morning there was no Santa Claus for the 10 children all under 16 years old, who scrambled around the feet of a wretched mother bent over her washtub, while in this same room her husband, and the father of the brood, lay ill with an infectious disease.

#### SHOULD YOUR CONGRESSMAN CLOSE HIS EYES?

But why do I tell you this? Why, some may ask, should one who is elected to represent this district take note of such unattractive spots when our city has so much to be proud of? To those To those people I will answer that no one is more proud of the beauty and attainments of the city of Austin than I. But for that very reason I am unwilling to close my eyes to needless suffering and deprivation which is not only a curse to the people immediately concerned, but is also a cancerous blight on the whole community.

Good housewives do not seek to bide the tarnish on their silver, nor can any good mayor or other public official afford to try to hide spots of tarnish on his city. Certainly our fine mayor, Tom Miller, is not one to look away from the facts, and when confronted with them he does not hesitate to apply the polish. Right now he is taking bold and effective steps to remove the slum tarnish from our community—the community O. Henry gave the appellation "The City of the Violet Crown."

#### DO THE PEOPLE OF AUSTIN NEED IMPROVED HOUSING?

The need for clearing up our slum areas is apparent, I am sure, to most of you without further talk; but some people have raised questions concerning the plans of the mayor and the Housing Authority, and I am grateful to station KNOW for the opportunity of putting this problem before you tonight. As you hear my words through your radio, I hope you will think about and discuss these problems with your family and friends, and if you care to, write and give me your comments tomorrow.

For this is no political problem, but one which should be considered directly in terms of its benefits to all the people of Austin. I want you to listen to these figures concerning Austin, as given by the Department of Commerce:

1. 14.407 dwelling houses in Austin.

2. 8,240 rental houses.

3. 314 one-room houses, 1,124 two-room houses.

2.435 houses have no water.

3,051 houses have no electric or gas lighting: 95 percent of the people living in them have incomes of less than \$1,000 per year.

3,820 houses have no private toilets.
 3,942 houses have no tub or shower.

8. 8,798 houses, or 27.1 percent, were crowded, overcrowded, or greatly overcrowded—two, three, and more for each room.
 9. 1,945 units rent for \$10 or under; 1,878 units rent for \$10

10. 88 percent, or 11,809 houses, are of wood construction

11. 1.366 houses, or 10.7 percent, are from 40 to over 75 years of age.
12. 2,867 houses, or 22.3 percent, are in need of repairs so essential that if not made would impair value of property or render it unfit

## BAD HOUSING BREEDS DISEASE

What, for instance, are the dangers to the health of you and What, for instance, are the dangers of the politicists, you might your children as the result of these conditions? What, you might ask, is the loss to Austin as the result of unsanitary living? This is a question which we can answer definitely. Sickness from is a question which we can answer definitely. Sickness from dilapidated, indecent, unsafe, and unsanitary housing has been measured in several places.

measured in several places.

In Baltimore it was found that infant mortality in these areas was twice that of the more prosperous and sanitary districts. In the Birmingham slums the tuberculosis death rate was found to be three times that of the rest of the city. Typhoid fever is twice as prevalent; and so on throughout the whole range of disease and pestilence. And the disease germs that thrive in these civic pestholes speed through the community. They are not, and cannot be, isolated, because the people who live there go out to work and mingle in many ways with the rest of us. The children go to school and all children are thereby exposed to the germs which school, and all children are thereby exposed to the germs which have thrived in squalor. So, though you may live proudly in Enfield or modestly in other parts of the city, out of sight of these areas, you are not out of reach of the germs which they produce.

#### SHANTIES ARE HOTHEDS OF CRIME

Crime, like disease, is most at home in the slums. In one city a study was made in one of their slum areas which showed that out of every four adolescent boys in that area at least one passed through the juvenile court in a year. Gangsters are the result not only of foul environment but also of undernourishment and disease; and no city, however small or large, can afford to harbor their breeding places. In fact, from a purely financial point of view, slums are a drain on a city which none should endure.

# THE TAXPAYERS PAY FOR INDECENT HOUSING

In another American city recently, the Housing Commission made a study of 1 square mile of so-called "blighted area." The made a study of 1 square mile of so-called "blighted area." The cost to the city of maintaining this area—that is to say, providing schools, police and fire protection, and the routine municipal services—amounted in 1930 to a little more than \$3.000,000. The taxes assessed in the area were about \$1,200,000. Listen to this, Mr. Taxpayer: In other words, the rest of the city had to take care of these people indirectly through taxes; for the city paid two and a half times as much as it ever expected to get back. In 1933, 8 years after the taxes were due, the city had in fact collected just a little over \$600,000—or one-sixth of the cost to the city. For expenditures directly in this area, \$5 came from people outside of the area for every dollar taken from within it. And this particular city is no different in this respect from other cities, North or South. It just happens that the study was made there. Austin were to set up a balance sheet on its slums, we, too,

If Austin were to set up a balance sheet on its slums, we, too, would learn how costly it is to allow them to exist.

One thing I believe all of us have learned from the Roosevelt administration is that none of us can remain prosperous long unless more of us have an opportunity to live better and purchase more from our stores; for it is on the wide distribution of our manufactured and agricultural products that the prosperity of this country depends. If that is true of the country as a whole, it is just as true of the capital city of Texas.

## THESE CONDITIONS ARE NOT A THOUSAND MILES AWAY

Now to those who take comfort in the fact that other places Now to those who take comfort in the fact that other places are worse and say. "Well, we may have some had places in Austin, but, after all, it's much worse to Chicago and New York," I should like to quote from a study made by the Federal Government in 1934. According to this study—which included 64 representative cities in the United States, of which Austin was one—223 percent of all homes in Austin were either in dangerous disrepair or even unfit for habitation. The average for the 64 cities was not higher, as we should like to think, but lower. It was 18.1 percent. Similarly, in Austin it was found that 27.1 percent of our homes were overcrowded, as against 16.8 percent for the 64 cities. Again, in Austin one out of every six homes had no running water, whereas in the 64 cities the average was one out of twenty. In Austin twice as many homes lacked a private toilet as in the 64 cities taken together.

#### WHAT IS YOUR CITY DOING ABOUT IT?

And so it goes. But I do not cite these figures to embarrass us and I would not now bring them to your attention unless I felt that there was something we could do about the situation. Something, in fact, is already being done about it. Our fine mayor and city council have already established the Housing Authority, of which Mr. E. H. Perry is the head, and this Authority proposes to take advantage of the help which is offered in Washington by

to take advantage of the help which is offered in Washington by the United States Housing Authority.

It is the plan of your Housing Authority to issue \$500,000 worth of 60-year bonds. Of these, \$450,000 will be taken by the Federal Government as soon as we get our plans in proper shape, and \$50,000 will be taken locally. With this money the local Housing Authority is going to build between five and six hundred rooms in modern states.

in modern, sanitary units.

People who now have to put up with conditions such as I bave already described will be able to move into new, clean, and safe dwellings. There won't be Persian rugs on the floors. There won't be Venetian blinds at the windows. But there will be light, and water, and air: and windows to let in the sunshine; and strong walls to hold back the chill of winter. These rooms are going to be rented to the people who live in them for about \$3 a month—\$3 for a clean and wholesome room as against \$8 and \$10 now \$3 for a clean and wholesome room as against \$8 and \$10 now paid by some of them for scabrous shacks. When the occupants of these houses pay only \$3 a room for reut, they will then have something left over for decent food, for furniture, and maybe even a little for clothes and drugs. They will have money to contribute to the church, and money to pay a doctor to attend them in sickness. Those five or six hundred rooms will be a great blessing to each individual who inhabits them. They will be a proportion of the contribution of the contribut wonderful investment, the dividends from which will be healthier children and better citizens for Austin.

Moreover, the demonstration of this new life for these people will be a boost to the whole community. Some of my friends have expressed the fear that these housing projects will destroy property values in the neighborhood; but they forget how destructive the present housing conditions are, and they also ignore the experience of other cities.

#### EXPERIENCE OF OTHER CITIES

The Public Works Administration built 51 alum-clearance and The Public Works Administration built 51 alum-clearance and low-rent housing projects in 36 cities of the country, but these projects did not destroy property values. Within 2 years after they were begun a total of more than \$3,000,000 of property improvements were made around these projects; and for most of them it is possible to state definitely that they would not have been made if the housing projects had not been built. I think we may safely predict, based on the experience of other cities, that your housing program will enhance the value not only of the surrounding property but of all property in Austin.

# NO COMPETITION WITH LEGITIMATE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Recently a man said to me, "Lyndon, I'm against this program, because I have been told it is Government competition with private business." He asked me if this was true, and I said, "Yes, sir, it is true. The Government is competing with shacks and hovels and hog sties and all the other foul holes in which the underprivileged have had to live. The Government is attempting to wipe out these nave had to live. The Government is attempting to wipe out these wretched excuses for American homes. If you object to that kind of Government competition, then I'm disappointed in you." There will be no competition with legitimate private business which rents decent quarters; but we want to get those shacks which are in disrepair and unfit to live in either repaired or removed. Express rules against competition are written into the United States Housing Act of 1937 and into the Texas act. In October of last year the National Association of Real Estate Boards passed a unanimous resolution offering their cooperation. My friends, if this organization approves the program you need not fear for Government competition.

JOBS FOR MEN WHO WANT TO WORK

There is, I believe, very little argument against the advisability of these bousing projects; but if anyone says to you that the peo-ple of Austin do not need these improved dwellings, I hope you will do as I have done. Tell them of the 2,867 dwellings the Department of Commerce said were in dangerous disrepair or unfit for habitation. Take them through the blocks of slums which we have and show them the conditions which are a disgrace to Americans in any city. And if anyone tells you that we do not need the employment which the construction of these houses would give to our carpenters, plumbers, electricians, bricklayers, and other building-trades men who are necessarily idle a large part of the year, take him to talk with the heads of the tradesunions and ask them whether Austin could use this extra employment. ployment. And don't forget that for every hour a man is em-ployed at the site of the construction, other men will be employed for two and a half hours at work in the lumberyards, the brick factories, and in the manufacturing and transportation of other building materials.

## PROFITS OF THE MOMENT BUT COMMUNITY LOSSES IN THE END

If by any chance you meet a person who says that we in Austin do not need the additional wealth and income which the construction of these houses would give, take him to your favorite store and ask the owner whether he feels business will be better when people are able to buy more. Beware of arguments that are put out by the people whose real opposition is that they are now making large returns from the hovels that will be repaired or removed as soon as decent housing is provided. I believe that even those people who are now exacting such large interest returns from the misery of the slums will be better off when the general situation is improved. But if anyone should wish to be short-sightedly selfish, make him declare his real reason for opposing the program, because there can be no doubt that for the great ma jority of the people of Austin these housing projects will be a real blessing.

I am convinced that your spiendid Housing Authority will not let these people down, and I wish to offer my services now to help them in any way possible in the future to realize speedily their plans for a healthier, safer, and more beautiful Austin.

#### A MARCH THROUGH AUSTIN HOMES

Get your pencil and write this down:

1. One out of every ten Austin homes has less than two rooms.

 One out of every six Austin homes has no water.
 One out of every five Austin homes has no lights, and this in a city located in the shadow of one of the Southwest's greatest power projects.

One out of every four has no toilet.
 Almost one out of every three has no bath.

One out of four is overcrowded.

One out of ten is from 50 to 75 years old.

More than one out of five is in disrepair or unfit for habitation. And the Austin Housing Authority plans to build about 200 units in a city of 14,000 houses. Will you allow these tenants through their Government to borrow the money at low interest without an increase of a dime to your tax bill or the addition of a single penny to your city indebtedness, or are you going to say, "No; we won't let these people at the bottom of the heap move"?

# Wells Fargo—Revival of the Pioneer Spirit

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

# HON. CHARLES L. McNARY OF OREGON

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Thursday, February 3 (legislative day of Wednesday, January 5), 1938

RADIO ADDRESS BY RON. JAMES J. DAVIS, OF PENNSYLVANIA, ON FEBRUARY 2, 1938

Mr. McNARY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record a very inspiring address delivered last night by the senior Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. DAVIS] in a Nation-wide broadcast over the Mutual Broadcasting System, entitled "Wells Fargo," in which the Senator from Pennsylvania made a forceful appeal for the revival of the stalwart pioneer spirit of the Nation.

There being no objection, the address was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

I have come from seeing a stirring drama of the pioneer days in the settlement of our great Golden West—Wells Fargo. This picture fascinates me, as I am sure it has thrilled millions of my fellow citizens. This story of the early days of the railroad, the pony express, the surging tide of moving people across a vast