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FOREWORD

Back in the days of the New Deal, when drastic social change was in progress and when *Law and Contemporary Problems* had its birth, the publication's second symposium dealt with low-cost housing and slum clearance.¹ Then, over a decade later and following World War II, which had pushed the housing shortage to crisis proportions, housing once again received symposium attention.² Seeking an even wider perspective, *Law and Contemporary Problems* subsequently published two symposia on land planning³—symposia which can be found today not only in law libraries and lawyers' offices, but also on city planners' desks throughout the country. Thus, there was ample precedent for a symposium on urban renewal—which would embrace not only housing, but all the other types of land use necessary for the maintenance and growth of American cities, and which would go beyond the problems and techniques of land planning into a consideration of relocation, disposition, and a host of other matters incident to executing even the best-laid plans.

The most proximate cause for organizing this symposium was undoubtedly my own appointment and service as Chairman of an Urban Renewal Commission. After taking office, I soon perceived that although some worthwhile articles on urban renewal have been published, and although a stream of bulletins and informational aids emanates from the Urban Renewal Administration, along with its less-than-constant *Manual*, a need existed for a comprehensive symposium on urban renewal. Of course, as an editor of *Law and Contemporary Problems*, I had little difficulty in finding a suitable candidate to publish the needed symposium—which was originally intended for only one issue but soon burgeoned into two.

The symposium appears at an especially opportune moment. More than a decade of experience has been accumulated with federal urban renewal legislation, and so there is now a basis for appraising realistically its strong and weak points. During this decade, some problems—such as the constitutionality of acquiring by eminent domain property that ultimately will be resold to private redevelopers—have largely been laid to rest; but new, often more subtle, problems are being discerned. More-

¹ *Low-Cost Housing and Slum Clearance*, 1 LAW & CONTEMP. PROB. 135-256 (1934).

² *Housing*, 12 LAW & CONTEMP. PROB. 1-205 (1947).

³ *Land Planning in a Democracy*, 20 LAW & CONTEMP. PROB. 197-350 (1955); *Urban Housing and Planning*, *id.* at 351-529.

over, a new Administration, pledged to expand urban renewal, is just going into office and a new Congress is convening; perhaps some of the articles in this symposium will have an impact on the adoption and implementation of urban renewal policies by the new Chief Executive and by the legislators.

In many fields, large sums have been expended by private organizations and by the Government for research—prime examples being business expenditures for public opinion research and government expenditures for agricultural research, agricultural-testing stations, and the like. These expenditures presumably are designed to further utilization and preservation of important national assets. Few of our national assets are more important than America's cities and suburbs, where ever-increasing percentages of its citizens cluster to work, play, and dwell. Yet, the research in this area has, to a considerable extent, been neglected—perhaps because of a failure to recognize either the intellectual challenge involved or the crisis that now is confronted in the cities. Undoubtedly the present symposium will not serve of itself to loosen public and private purse strings for the purpose of financing urban renewal research; nor will it suffice to draw more scholars and administrators into this research field. However, by furnishing a useful tool for urban renewal study and discussion in seminars and classrooms in law schools, economics departments, schools of public administration, city-planning schools, and elsewhere, it may pave the way for the performance of fruitful new urban renewal research. At the same time, it can serve as an invaluable aid for those who already are on the battleline of day-to-day urban renewal administration and execution.

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