

January 28, 1970

FOR JOHN D. EHRLICHMAN

Saturday, January 31st, will be the first anniversary of the President's visit to the burnt out area of 7th Street, and of a press conference held by you, me, Dick Van Dusen and Don Santarelli to announce our plans for bringing a partly ruined and desperately demoralized capital back to life.

I cannot, a year later, speak for the morale of the city. But as for my own, it could hardly be worse.

For a complex of reasons, I hate those moldering ruins. Like so much dried vomit of a sick culture. And they are still there, untouched, a year later.

You recall in April we announced a similar program (\$209 million) for other burnt out areas. We had a set of pictures on display which I described as a "pictorial essay on the impotence of modern government." Last July the press began to report that nothing much seemed to have happened. I asked for a report from HUD, but it was the usual crap and I didn't even bother to send it on to you.

I don't think the White House is responsible here. We have done everything that might reasonably be expected to impress the District government and HUD with the fact that we take the matter seriously. Somehow either the message hasn't got to them, or for some other reason they have not been able to follow through. Either way, I think we should take it up once more and give both principals to understand that their reputations are on the line here. I'm sure that if the President were to be shown photographs of 7th Street a year later he would be pretty damned upset, and he would be right to be.

Daniel P. Moynihan

DPM/crm