

City or about the distribution of this among needed sections. Now section 209 gives the authority to the Director to establish the criteria for determining the allocation of money based on need. Are you familiar with the section?

MAYOR WAGNER. Yes.

MR. LANDRUM. Do you think that is a satisfactory provision insofar as assuring that the money that we do appropriate will go to the needy sections?

MAYOR WAGNER. As I said, it could be more specific if you would want it that way but I believe it certainly covers in the categories the problems that we have and, again, I am sure, anyone administering this program would not just ignore the larger cities.

MR. LANDRUM. Very specifically, Mayor Wagner, what do you mean? Do you intend to convey the impression that we should allocate a number of dollars to each State?

MAYOR WAGNER. No, I think, as you have the ceiling stated in here, the top that can go to any State, I think you might get into a great deal of difficulty and might delay the passage of the bill in trying to get that specific.

MR. LANDRUM. Is it not true, Mayor, that the problem that is with us here in this legislation is that it is an impossibility to allocate definite sums to definite States? Are we not going to be compelled to allocate it under a formula such as this in 209?

MAYOR WAGNER. I believe so. I said, of course, I would be delighted to have it stated in the bill how much we would get. It would be a good amount, but I realize that it would be impossible to do it throughout the whole United States.

MR. LANDRUM. So that, when we are dealing with the subject of poverty, we are going to have to provide enough discretion, enough leeway on the part of the Director, to deal with it wherever he finds it and not be in a straitjacket insofar as dealing with it within the confines of a State or within the confines of a city?

MAYOR WAGNER. That is correct. I think that is so, Congressman, as you know so much better than I do in many of the other areas of Federal assistance.

MR. LANDRUM. Surely you do not take seriously the suggested anticipation on the part of the gentleman from New Jersey that New York City might not get some of this money?

MAYOR WAGNER. I sincerely believe that those in charge of the program—

MR. LANDRUM. He does not scare you, does he?

MAYOR WAGNER. No.

MR. DENT. Especially this year.

MR. LANDRUM. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN POWELL. The gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Ayres.

MR. AYRES. Mr. Mayor, it is a pleasure to have you before the committee.

Following up the statement of the distinguished author of the bill, Mr. Landrum from Georgia, based on the testimony that you have given here this morning, I think New York could use the whole program—New York City. You have pointed out here on page 7 that you have 389,000 families plus 320,000 single individuals in New York living in conditions approximating poverty. With a percentage like