

12946, and H.R. 13064—and by Congressman Barrett—H.R. 12342, H.R. 12939, and H.R. 13065.

The demonstration cities bill is the most important proposal in the President's program for rebuilding America's cities.

In his message to the Congress recommending the demonstration cities bill, the President said:

From the experience of three decades, it is clear to me that American cities require a program that will—

Concentrate our available resources—in planning tools, in housing construction, in job training, in health facilities, in recreation, in welfare programs, in education—to improve the conditions of life in urban areas.

Join together all available talent and skills in a coordinated effort.

Mobilize local leadership and private initiative, so that local citizens will determine the shape of their new city * * *.

The demonstration cities bill will make it possible for cities of all sizes to undertake such a program.

This bill will help cities to plan, develop, and carry out comprehensive city demonstration programs. These are locally prepared programs for rebuilding or restoring entire sections and neighborhoods of slum and blighted areas. It will help cities to provide the public facilities and services, including citywide aids, needed to enable the poor and disadvantaged people who live in these areas to become useful, productive citizens—citizens able to join in the general prosperity this Nation now enjoys.

This bill will make it possible to improve and substantially increase the supply of adequate low- and moderate-cost housing in the cities. It will make it possible for cities to concentrate their educational, health, and social services on the problems of the large numbers of poor and disadvantaged people who live in slum and blighted sections and neighborhoods. It will make it possible to treat the human needs of people in the slums at the same time physical rehabilitation is being carried out.

To qualify for assistance under this bill, a city must be prepared to plan and carry out a comprehensive city demonstration program. This will be a local program. It will be planned, developed, and carried out by local people. The character and content of the program will be based on local judgments as to the cities' needs.

This bill will provide Federal funds to cover up to 90 percent of the cost of planning and developing the comprehensive city demonstration program. It will provide special Federal grants—supplementing assistance available under existing grant-in-aid programs—to help carry out all of the activities included as part of the demonstration program.

The amount of these special, supplemental grants, will be equal to 80 percent of the local or State share of the cost of all projects or activities which are a part of the demonstration program and financed under existing grant-in-aid programs. I will soon explain more fully the provisions of this bill relating to these supplemental grants.

But first, let me emphasize that it will not be easy to qualify for this assistance. This bill is designed to help cities willing to face up to their responsibilities—willing and able to bring together the public and private bodies whose joint action is necessary to solve their problems—willing to commit fully their energies and resources—willing to