

city demonstration program before making a commitment to make grants for the program.

THE CITIES' NEEDS

A comprehensive city demonstration program will not replace existing Federal programs which now assist cities to provide for their urban development and growth. Rather, it will supplement and tend to encourage the focusing and coordination of existing programs, such as the urban renewal, mass transit, antipoverty, and health and welfare programs, in rebuilding and revitalizing urban areas. By encouraging coordination of these existing urban aids, the new program will achieve the maximum concentration of all available resources in order to improve substantially the conditions of life in urban areas.

The cities which need to undertake comprehensive city demonstration programs desperately require every bit of this additional Federal assistance.

The great problems confronting the Nation's cities are well known.

Slums and blight are widespread. Persons of low income concentrate increasingly in the older urban areas. Housing and community facilities are services are inadequate.

Cities are caught in a descending spiral which leads to widespread municipal insolvency. The continuing spread of blight reduces the taxable value of city land. As slums and blight spread, crime, delinquency, and disease follow.

At the same time as the need for city services grows, the city's ability to provide these services is impaired by the very blight that creates the demand. Greater blight—greater demand for city services—decreasing revenues to meet the demand—that is the downward trend in many American cities. In these circumstances, it is not surprising that the cities with the greatest slum problems have the least capacity to deal with those problems.

Significantly, the efforts of our cities to help themselves are in large measure self-defeating. The more determined the city's efforts to raise funds to meet the need for increased services, the more likely that effort drives its economically affluent citizens to the nearby suburbs. Similarly, the greater burden the city places on industry within its borders, the smaller its opportunity to attract, and hold, the industry and commerce its economy requires. As a result, the city becomes, increasingly, a home for the economically deprived, those least able to bear the cost of municipal services.

The city plays a critical role in American life. It must provide jobs and adequate housing and education for millions of the Nation's unemployed, ill housed, and uneducated. It must provide community facilities and health and social services on a scale unprecedented in the Nation's history. And, it must do so in the face of overwhelming demands on its skills and resources.

The success of the city in providing the physical and social framework through which millions of poor and disadvantaged Americans are prepared to participate fully in the Nation's life—is a vital national concern. The city is performing an essential national function.

The objective of the President's program and the demonstration cities bill is to help the city to adequately perform that function.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACT

The bill referred to as the Urban Development Act deals with the problem of urban growth.

TITLE I—GRANTS TO ASSIST IN PLANNED METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT

Purpose of title

The first title of the bill would provide the new incentive for effective metropolitan planning and development recommended by the President in his January 26 message on city demonstration programs.

In brief, the incentive consists of increased aid to federally assisted projects of types which generally affect the growth of metropolitan areas. This aid would be given only within metropolitan areas where all public and private development having major areawide impact is consistent with fully comprehensive and current metropolitan planning.

This represents a new approach to making planning effective. It would not deprive any project of aid it would receive under existing programs. It would simply increase assistance to cities and other State and local bodies that actually develop projects and administer local zoning and subdivision controls consistently with metropolitan plans.