

Mr. WIDNALL. The Republican minority in our 1964 housing bill suggested a direct tie-in between the local public agency and the local elected officials. You wrote the committee at the time in opposition to the idea.

Secretary WEAVER. Yes. I think the difference is between a special purpose activity, as contrasted to a comprehensive activity. Obviously, if you are going to have a coordinated comprehensive activity, it is going to have to have citywide concurrence, and it is going to have to be related to an elected body. I think the activities are quite different. But we are perfectly willing to accept the principle in this program.

Mr. WIDNALL. Mr. Chairman, I would like to have permission to put it in the record.

Mr. BARRETT. Without objection.

(The document referred to by Mr. Widnall is as follows:)

[From the Congressional Record, Mar. 5, 1964, p. 4369]

(The following is an excerpt from a letter addressed to Chairman Patman by Dr. Weaver in answer to the chairman's request for agency comment on H.R. 9771, 88th Congress, an omnibus housing bill, introduced by Congressman Widnall.)

"Section 307. Definition of local public agency:

"This section would amend the definition in section 110(h) of the Housing Act of 1949, of a 'local public agency' qualified to carry on an urban renewal project. Under present law, a project may be carried on not only by a State, county or municipality but also by any other 'governmental entity or public body,' so long as it is 'authorized' (under State and local law) to carry on the project. The amendment would limit eligibility of other governmental entities and public bodies only to those acting as agents for State or local governments.

"The Housing Agency believes that this proposed amendment would unjustifiably interfere with the right of States and localities to decide for themselves their proper relationship to local public agencies. Close coordination between local public agencies and elected local governments is always desirable. However, it would appear that there is no impelling need which would justify the proposed detailed intercession by the Federal Government in these State-local relationships. Under section 102(d) of the Housing Act of 1949, it is already necessary, as a condition to obtaining an advance of funds for survey and planning, that 'the governing body of the locality involved has by resolution or ordinance approved the undertaking of such surveys and plans and the submission by the local agency of an application for such advance of funds.'

"Also, under section 105(a), the governing body of the locality must approve the urban renewal plan before the local public agency can obtain a Federal loan or grant contract for the project. Finally, the local public agency must almost invariably obtain the concurrence of the local governing body, in order to obtain financing for the local share of the project."

Mr. WIDNALL. Does this legislation mean that if the Administrator deems it desirable to provide a city demonstration agency with a Federal plan for a Federal administrator, he could do so?

Secretary WEAVER. No. It means if the city requests and if the Federal agency has the bodies and the resources available, it will meet the requests of the city. It does not mean that we are going to send this technical assistance in, for two reasons. We would not have enough if we wanted to, and in the second place, we would not want to.

Mr. WIDNALL. You are going to provide direct technical assistance instead of money to hire local employees for private consultants, are you not?

Secretary WEAVER. If the city requires it and if we have the resources we will make technical assistance of many types available to it. I would