

do, assuredly, would be to see that the programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which will be the major programs both financially and impactwise, are coordinated. And in this respect he would have a counterpart in the regional offices. And we are decentralizing so that most of the pertinent decisions would be made in the regional offices, where this would be expedited as well as coordinated.

He would also be a person who would be fully versed in the operations in general of the other Federal programs, fully versed in where the policy and the decisionmakings are centered in these programs. He would have direct personal contact with the regional offices of the other programs, and would bring together, wherever there was difficulty, the various Federal people, not on a basis of a fiat, but on a basis of being there—being knowledgeable, and being available.

Finally, if there were difficulties where the coordination and the cooperation—and I think cooperation is a little better word than coordination, because that is sort of a bad word—but where there was lack of cooperation which resulted in an uncoordinated activity in this program, it would be his responsibility to get in touch with me or my colleagues in Washington, and our responsibility, which we have authority to do under the act creating the Department, to get hold of the other agencies and to attempt to work it out.

So this would be an expediting process with an actual coordination authority insofar as the programs of this Department are concerned.

Mrs. SULLIVAN. In other words, what you said to Mr. Widnall and are saying to me is that here would be a man who would know to whom to go in the Federal Government for the necessary information or assistance should the city or the area need this kind of cooperation, and he would function wherever needed and not be assigned to any one particular city?

Secretary WEAVER. Not only to whom to go, but to whom to get to it whenever he would get to it.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Fino?

Mr. FINO. Mr. Secretary, before I ask any questions I just want to bring to your attention today's issue of the Wall Street Journal on page 2, which is captioned "Johnson Program of Aid to Cities, Suburbs Faces Sharp Fight Over Strings Attached."

WASHINGTON.—Congress starts work today on President Johnson's strings-attached offer of cash to cities and suburbs wanting to fight slums and haphazard growth.

It's already clear that just about everybody will want the money. But a sharp fight is developing over the attached strings. For example:

Extra dollars of slum clearance money would be available to cities that agree to shape their new neighborhoods toward specified goals, including a fight against "segregation of housing by race or income."

I have introduced legislation—I think you are familiar with the demonstration cities bill that I have introduced. And my concern was regarding this coordinator title. My bill calls for a Federal information officer instead of a commissarlike coordinator.

Let me ask you this question. Do you not think that an information officer, combined with your Urban Information Center, would do a job, a better job, without interfering with local government prerogatives?

Secretary WEAVER. I can answer your question only by objecting to certain assumptions made in it. The first thing is, the Federal coordi-