

nator is not going to be a commissar. I think the record to date indicates that he is not a commissar.

It also indicates the basic decisions about what is to be done are local—within some ground rules. I don't think that we appropriate Federal money with a blank check. I think it is normal and usual that there are certain ground rules in connection with Federal programs. But within those limits—which it is up to the Congress to establish, we have only made recommendations, of course—it will then be up to the locality to decide what the program is going to be. That will have been done before the Federal coordinator comes on the scene. His functions are not that of a commissar. His functions are not to make any local decisions or determinations. His functions are really to assist the locality and assist the local government to carry out its program—not his program.

Finally, an information officer would be a person who could give some information—and this is all to the good, this is included in our concept—but this requires more than an information officer. This requires a source of support—a sort of pulling together, as far as the Department of Housing and Urban Development is concerned—of its activities. And, also, a person is required who will be able to negotiate much more effectively than an information officer would with other Federal departments to carry out the local programs rather than a Federal program.

I think that this is a much more potent position and a much more potent role than purely an information officer would have.

And finally, I hate to bring in the matter of semantics, but I think this program requires an officer to do much more than hold the hands of local governments. This man is going to have to do more than hold their hands, he is going to have to go out and help.

Mr. FINO. Mr. Secretary, you and I know that urban renewal experience in the past has shown Federal dictation for hardship to displaced persons.

Secretary WEAVER. There has been no Federal dictation for hardship and displaced persons. As a matter of fact, I think the record of the last 5½ years will indicate that it has been the Federal Government which has taken the leadership to urge, and in some instances under legislation that you ladies and gentlemen have passed, to require, that the localities upgrade their relocation process.

But these again are local programs and not Federal programs. We do not decide in urban renewal where projects are going to be. We do not decide whether or not the locality is going to use the bulldozer or rehabilitation. But we do encourage rehabilitation. And I think it has been the Federal Government that has taken the lead in humanizing urban renewal.

But again in our system of government the basic decisions have to be at the local level.

Mr. FINO. On page 3 of your testimony you say, referring to the qualifications of a qualified program under this bill, "A city must be prepared to plan and carry out a comprehensive city demonstration program." Is that not requiring the city to do certain things?

Secretary WEAVER. No; it is not. It is simply saying that if you want a supplemental grant over and above what you normally would