

hensive planning have to be in being or can it be undertaken in conjunction with the neighborhood project?

In other words, must the local community be engaged in a CRP, or in metropolitan planning? Just what is the position of the Department with respect to this requirement?

(The information requested follows:)

THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,

Washington, D.C., March 22, 1966.

Hon. THOMAS L. ASHLEY,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. ASHLEY: During the course of the February 28 hearings on the Demonstration Cities Act of 1966 (H.R. 12341 and H.R. 12342) you requested written comments to a number of questions on the general criteria which a city must meet in order to qualify for assistance under that act. The questions you posed and our comments follow:

Question. The first requirement is that the program be "of sufficient magnitude in both physical and social dimensions (i) to remove or arrest blight and decay in entire sections or neighborhoods; (ii) to provide a substantial increase in the supply of standard housing of low and moderate cost; (iii) to make marked progress in serving the poor and disadvantaged people living in slum and blighted areas with a view to reducing educational disadvantages, disease, and enforced idleness; and (iv) to make a substantial impact on the sound development of the entire city."

I wonder, Mr. Secretary, if your Department can furnish guidelines as to what is meant by "entire sections or neighborhoods"?

Does the requirement that a substantial increase in the supply of standard housing of low and moderate cost be provided pertain to sections or neighborhoods where current density levels are already high? If not, does this requirement mean that there must be a substantial increase of standard housing of low and moderate cost in other than the project sections or neighborhoods?

Is the Department able to indicate how it will measure a "substantial impact" on the sound development of an entire city which the project section is required to make?

Answer. The term "entire sections or neighborhoods" will be interpreted in terms of the specific city involved and its particular neighborhood patterns. The intent is to deal with total cohesive areas rather than just small fragments of a few square blocks.

In his message transmitting recommendations for city demonstration programs, the President provided general criteria of what was intended. He indicated that a city program could involve as much as 15 to 20 percent of the sub-standard structures within the city. For the largest cities, such a program might involve a total of 85,000 dwelling units. For a city with a population of approximately 100,000, the program might involve 3,000 to 4,000 dwelling units.

The proposed requirement that there be a substantial increase in the supply of standard housing of low and moderate cost is intended to apply to the community as a whole and not just to the area of the demonstration. We expect that the bulk of the new standard housing of this category would be provided either through rehabilitation of existing housing or the construction of new housing in the demonstration area. However, if one of the problems of the demonstration area is excessive density, then a necessary part of the program would be the reduction of that density and the provision of housing in other parts of the community. It should be emphasized that there is no requirement that all of the activities of the local demonstration program must be carried out within the boundaries of the demonstration area. Some will be carried out in other parts of the community with the intention that they would have beneficial impact on the demonstration area.

A demonstration program will be making a "substantial impact" on the sound development of the entire city if the major social and physical improvements being made in the demonstration area or areas will make the city as a whole a better place in which to live and work.

Question. The second general requirement reads as follows: the rebuilding or restoration of sections or neighborhoods in accordance with the program will contribute to a well-balanced city with adequate public facilities (including those