

Mr. Secretary, this morning we were exploring your views on the four amendments proposed by Mr. Ashley, Mr. Moorhead, and myself. We discussed the mass transit research program. Let me now go to another amendment, having to do with the central coordinating function of the Department of HUD. It is perfectly obvious that a great many urban functions are not in the Department of HUD—water pollution, we are told, is to go to Interior, the war on poverty is in the Office of Economic Opportunity, and our expressways are in the Department of Commerce—and it was at least hinted this morning that now mass transit is going somewhere else, in the Department of Transportation, possibly.

Our first amendment, recognizing this scatterization of urban functions, would impose upon the Secretary of HUD the task of coordinating with other Departments the urban aspects of these problems, and if the Secretary of HUD believes that the Department primarily handling these aspects is doing it in a way inimical to the national interest and the needs of the cities, he should take the matter to the President and get the matter decided.

Are you for that or against it?

Secretary WEAVER. As with all of the amendments that you have proposed, I am for them certainly in principle. And I am for them as far as the results are concerned. I have some questions again as to whether or not it is the most effective way to accomplish the joint objectives that we have.

I call to your attention the fact that this new Department has just been established. And that the legislation establishing it says: "The Secretary shall among his responsibilities exercise leadership at the direction of the President in coordinating Federal activities affecting housing and urban development." So that we now have a charter for doing this. I think that the administration is now in the process of seeing how that charter can best be carried out. I think it is premature for us to say that this particular proposal or any other proposal is the means of carrying it out.

At the Washington level there is a question as to whether or not you accomplish by fiat the objective that you have in mind. It may be that this becomes necessary. But I would think that you would attempt first to try to get some type of cooperation short of having a law that says you do this, that, or the other.

In the field where, after all, the problems of coordination become really most significant, we are moving in this direction, and the demonstration cities program is a very great breakthrough in encouraging the local communities to come in with coordinated local programs, and setting up machinery to make sure that the Federal agencies are responsive to that. I would think that here there is the matter of technique and the matter of timing. And there is no difference in our opinion as to the ultimate result. As to whether or not this is either the time or whether or not the idea of passing such a law as you suggest is the technique for getting it done best is something that I would have to certainly study longer than I have had a chance to study this. I certainly think it is something that the administration would have to look at in terms of what it is now thinking about, and preparing to do in this area.

Mr. REUSS. I do want you to study it further. But if you come up opposed to the idea, I would like to have you state in particular