I just take that as almost absolute authority to you in connection with this.

Secretary WEAVER. It is not. In the first place, this has nothing to do with existing grants which are now available to the localities. They get those on the existing basis, most of which are on a 50–50 basis. This is a supplemental grant given to those which voluntarily decide that they want to cooperate in order to get a metropolitanwide approach. If they do not want it, they certainly do not have to do it, and many of them will not do it.

Mr. WIDNALL. Do you think they are in a position to refuse 20 percent more for their primary roads?

Secretary WEAVER. I think they are.

Mr. WIDNALL. The college housing program, Is it to continue at the $300 million, or have you got to phase out the program?

Secretary WEAVER. The program is now budgeted at a $300 million level.

Mr. WIDNALL. You don't expect to phase it out?

Secretary WEAVER. No.

Mr. WIDNALL. The program for elderly housing, What is the future of that program?

Secretary WEAVER. That program will continue, it will expand. I have forgotten what the figure is, I can supply it for the record. I do not have the budget before me.

Mr. WIDNALL. It has been a successful program. And I certainly hope it is going to be continual and will be expanded.

Secretary WEAVER. I have no idea that it will not continue and expand.

(The information referred to follows:)

Loans for rental housing for the elderly or handicapped (sec. 202 of the Housing Act of 1959)

[Dollars in thousands]

	Cumulative, June 30, 1964	Actual, 1965	Estimate, 1966	Estimate, 1967
Applications received	361	37	50	50
Program level:				
Loan reservations (net):				
Projects	151	27	45	45
Amount	$197,870	$46,858	$85,000	$85,000
Loan agreements executed (net):				
Projects	100	37	45	45
Amount	$116,014	$62,856	$78,357	$77,200
Construction starts:				
Projects	70	35	45	45
Units	6,461	4,476	5,720	6,610
Construction completions:				
Projects	37	30	40	40
Units	3,082	2,737	4,750	5,640
Loan disbursements	$52,434	$42,645	$56,900	$71,000
Net budget expenditures	$53,553	$41,361	$53,576	$63,760

Program funds for loan commitments and disbursements are provided through a revolving fund. The budget proposes an appropriation of $80 million to this fund.

Enacted in 1959, this program provides long-term loans for new construction, rehabilitation or conversion of housing for elderly or handicapped persons. Loans may be made to private nonprofit corporations, consumer cooperatives, and eligible public bodies. Qualified applicants who can demonstrate that they cannot obtain a private loan on equally favorable terms may borrow funds to cover total development costs including advisory services, land and site improve-