

advantageous position? I understand that there are some 250-plus general neighborhood renewal programs that are—have been approved, general neighborhood renewal programs, that there have been over a hundred community renewal plans that have been undertaken by cities obviously interested in upgrading their environment, or they would not have bothered. I find it difficult, although I must say I am sympathetic with the problem, but I find it difficult to see how this would not present something in the nature of a grab bag, inasmuch as there are 60 or more cities that would be interested, unless there be increased numbers approved in immediately subsequent years; that is, the third year of the program. And the second year is the first year on which there would be programs to go forward, and if there be increased numbers and increased appropriations to support it in the following years, then there is no question, there is no problem. If this is not the way of it, I think that as a matter of fact, we ought to know about it.

Secretary WEAVER. I don't think I can answer the latter part of your question categorically, because I think it depends upon a lot of things. Many of them related to the budgetary problems of the Nation, which have to be considered and which are beyond the impact of any one particular program. But as to your first point, I would say that those which are now and will be by end of the period when applications come in most willing and able to deal with their major urban problems will get this supplemental aid. This will not take anything away from what any other city would get if this program didn't exist. So that the other cities are in the same position as they would have been if there hadn't been this program.

Mr. ASHLEY. Let me ask this kind of a question. What you are really saying is, "First come, first served, fellow, and you had better hurry."

Secretary WEAVER. No, we are not.

Mr. ASHLEY. You have said that. And this is what becomes clear to me. And it might be quite easy for Toledo, Ohio, to qualify itself for it in an imaginative and vigorous way. But what about the city of New York, for example, where you have a problem which is so enormously difficult to tackle in any respect? I could see where it might be—take them better than a year to put together the kind of plan that would be approved under the criterion that pertained to the act. I would consider it contrary to the purposes that I think should be represented in the act if upon ultimate review and approval of such a plan relating to such a critical area it would be found that the 60 spaces have been occupied.

Secretary WEAVER. I think this is inevitable in any type of a demonstration approach. I think you have a choice as to whether or not you are going to have a reasonable period of time when the cities can come in and can meet these requirements—some of them meet them better than others—and have a demonstration program which will come within a budgetary figure that seems to be reasonable, or wait until you get a situation where you can budget a total program. This may not be feasible at this time.

Mr. ASHLEY. Doctor, as I suggested, I think I tried to. It seems to me that there might be an alternative. And I refer to one in which priorities could be established based upon these that are perfectly