

And perhaps the 15 percent is somewhat better planned than the 85 percent that we are not involved in.

Mr. REUSS. I think that is true. But let's draw the veil of charity over the other 85 percent.

Mr. Weaver, I am delighted to see that you put in a good word for the rent supplement appropriation. Do you not agree that equally as important as getting in an adequate rent supplement appropriation is to make sure that the appropriation contains no restrictive requirement such as requiring a workable program, approved by the local community, recognizing that such requirements would, in effect, eliminate the rent supplement program in the very areas where it is most needed?

Secretary WEAVER. I think that the philosophy behind the rent supplement program is the fact that it is a private enterprise approach to low-income housing. And I think it should be treated as any other private enterprise approach to housing, since it is financed through the same machinery. And I think that there are adequate housing provisions for any local control or local participation, which apply to all other programs, which ought to apply to this program.

In addition, such limitations would greatly restrict the areas in which this particular activity could be carried on, which would be prejudicial to the people we are trying to help and, really, I think, destroy much of its efficiency.

Mr. REUSS. One final question on your metropolitan planning. You used the magic words "planning," and I think "programing," indicating to me that you have in mind not just a regional or metropolitan planning agency; plans are fine as far as they go, but they don't get anything built in themselves, and you want something more.

Now, the something more, I gather, is not necessarily always a metropolitan council of governments. You carefully ruled out, and I am glad you did, the idea that you have to have a metropolitan super government. You don't want that, and it certainly isn't a requirement. But will anything less than a metropolitan council of governments of some formal or informal nature do?

Secretary WEAVER. I don't like to stretch it. I would say that in most instances I think this is the form that it will take. We are concerned, first, that there be an agency, a public agency, that can perform adequately the metropolitan planning for all of the pertinent areas.

Secondly, we are concerned that there be a unit of government—it can be State—it wouldn't make any difference—it could be any form of government which has both the jurisdiction, the power, and the will to carry out what is provided for in the comprehensive metropolitan plan.

Mr. REUSS. But where the State either doesn't or can't do it, and where the metropolitan problems slop over the county boundary as they frequently do, in addition to a planning agency covering, roughly, the area question, you would require, if not a formal metropolitan council of governments, at least some cooperative arrangements, so that you didn't get 153 Balkan States each fighting each other?

Secretary WEAVER. Yes. I think the important point here is the effectiveness of this.

And maybe Assistant Secretary Haar would like to speak to that briefly, too.

Mr. HAAR. I think we are interested, not only in the planning but in the implementation of it, and the carrying out and the adherence to