

the plan. And we are again looking for new developments, innovations, and institutional structure.

Now, the council of elected officials is one that has emerged and has proven to be more useful than other devices, and more effective in carrying out the plans and staffing the local aspirations. We don't want to preclude other innovations and other ways of meeting this problem of planning at one level of development and land activities going on at the other. We want the two to match.

Mr. REUSS. But there has to be something at the implementation level.

Mr. HAAR. There has to be something. And I think it is to give the representatives of the localities, somehow, representation into the groups which make decisions. It doesn't have to be one for one, and it doesn't have to be the exact ratio, but somehow the people who have to make the decisions on the local level, those who have the responsibilities and who are elected on the local level, have to have some say in these metropolitan decisions.

Mr. REUSS. And by metropolitan decisions, you don't mean the planning decisions but the implementing decisions?

Mr. HAAR. The implementing decisions.

Mr. REUSS. I think that is a very good piece of legislative history.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BARRETT. Gentlemen, the time has expired.

Mr. Secretary, there are two brief questions now and I am sorry we won't be able to let you go at 5 o'clock.

Mr. Widnall wants to ask a short question and I think Mr. St Germain wants to come back. And he says it will be a short one.

Mr. WIDNALL. Mr. Secretary, notice has come to me that in urban renewal's open space program, where the Federal Government picks up 50 percent of the costs of acquisition, that the community of Virginia Beach is requesting such assistance in connection with a purchase of a 144-acre ocean-front property.

The property is priced at \$522,000 but is on the tax rolls at \$18,360, which, under the Virginia system of real estate taxation, has brought in only \$128.50 in taxes during the past year, according to the Virginia Observer, a Virginia weekly newspaper. The Federal Government's share of this \$522,000, at 50 percent, would be \$261,000. I have inquired several times, through subcommittee staff, of urban renewal authorities as to the progress of the Virginia Beach application. Information has been given us that appraisals of the property have backed up the acquisition cost, but that URA is seeking further information. I am pleased they are alert.

I still cannot understand how a property can be on the tax rolls for only \$18,360, bring in only \$128.50 in taxes, and still cost the local government \$522,000 of which the Federal Government would pay \$261,000. Could you or one of your urban renewal assistants further enlighten me?

Secretary WEAVER. I couldn't.

Mr. SLAYTON. Well, Congressman Widnall, you have indicated that we have had some correspondence on this, and I haven't checked upon this recently, since I have come back to work, so I don't know the precise status of it right now. But as our correspondence did indicate, we have looked into this, and we looked into it immediately