

Mr. ASHLEY. All of us have been following the really splendid job that you have been doing as mayor of Newark, and we are extremely proud of you.

How big a city is Newark, Mr. Mayor?

Mr. ADDONIZIO. Now, Newark is approximately 23 square miles.

Mr. ASHLEY. And what population?

Mr. ADDONIZIO. It has a population of some 412,000 people. And for the first time in many years, our population increased somewhat last year.

Mr. ASHLEY. The Secretary, Dr. Weaver, suggested yesterday, I believe, that, considering that there might be approximately 60 cities selected for the action part of the program, that it might be divided into 6 or 8 large cities of over a million, and I believe this is correct, some cities between 250,000 and 500,000—there is a gap here somewhere—and some smaller cities. Do you think that this kind of ratio is beneficial, and that you would fall into a category in which there might be, say, 20 cities selected?

Mr. ADDONIZIO. I think that is a fair judgment that was made by Dr. Weaver. I certainly would accept that.

Mr. ASHLEY. I notice that you indicate your support of the planning phase and suggest that every city in the Nation should be allowed the opportunity to participate in at least the planning phase of the program. And then you do say—

Mr. ADDONIZIO. I hope I have not been misunderstood. I indicated that I thought that as many cities as possible be included in the planning phase. I think that this would be wise on the basis of all of the ideas that could flow from all of these various cities.

Mr. ASHLEY. I see your point. It occurred to me that you seem to be supporting the participation of a good many cities in the planning phase, and then stating subsequently that the number of cities chosen for the actual action part of the program would be few, and this would obviously create a disparity and a lot of disappointed customers. I think I now understand your point, that out of the planning that cities might do would come creativeness and imagination that would be fruitful, even though the city might not, at least immediately, be selected for participation.

Mr. ADDONIZIO. I think a city has to prove that it can be successful in a program.

Mr. ASHLEY. Several of us have thought that it might be useful if the regional FHA director be utilized as the local Federal coordinator. What would you think of this for an idea?

Mr. ADDONIZIO. I would like Mr. Giacchino to answer that.

Mr. GIACCHINO. I think, as it was brought out yesterday during Dr. Weaver's testimony, that the local FHA directors would encounter a great many problems in administering an act which is so different from their present activities, and in addition it is something that would be certainly a great burden in addition to their many present tasks. And that is our view of the situation as it applies to our own local area. The local FHA office there is already taxed with a variety of tasks and it has never entered into any kind of an activity that is anywhere near the scope of the proposed action.

Mr. ASHLEY. There has never been any kind of similar activity?

Mr. GIACCHINO. That is right.