

Mr. BARRETT. Mayor Cavanagh, I want to thank you on behalf of the subcommittee for a splendid and constructive statement. Your record of accomplishments in Detroit is well known to the Nation. And we know you can speak with authority on metropolitan and urban problems.

Mr. Mayor, some people seem to have the fear that the Federal coordinator which would be set up for each demonstration city program would be some sort of a Federal dictator or czar. Now, I don't believe this. And I think that the bill is clear that he would not have dictatorial powers. But I would like to ask you two questions. First, would the people who have such fear feel better, do you think, if we renamed the Federal official as a local coordinator or rather than a Federal coordinator, and second, what do you think of the idea of making the services of a coordinator optional to participating cities rather than mandatory as now provided in H.R. 12341?

Would you give your opinion on those two questions?

Mr. CAVANAGH. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

I think that during the last 4½ years I have been as active as any mayor in America in relationship with the Federal Establishment and various Federal agencies. And I can say, and I say it most sincerely and candidly, that at no time in any of those programs has there been a diminution of local control and an elimination of local responsibility. No Federal administrator has come to me or people under my direction and told me what I can or cannot do in relation to these Federal programs. And when people tell me this, I do not think they speak with any degree of experience, because it has not been my experience whatsoever.

The specific answer to both of your questions may well be that the name of a coordinator may better be changed to a local coordinator. I do not have any fear of a Federal coordinator, but if it would assuage the feelings of some people, then a local coordinator might be a better title or designation for such a person.

I think in response to the second question that one of the most important parts of this program is that not only does it propose to be a very comprehensive attack upon a certain neighborhood, but also a well coordinated attack. The only way that can be done, I think, is by making it mandatory that there be a local coordinator to coordinate both the Federal and local effort. I think, as Dr. Weaver has stated it so well, that the coordinator is really not the Federal coordinator as such, he is the city's coordinator. He is there to help that city with their problems, and help them pull together the various Federal agencies working in concert with the private and public sectors of the local community to achieve the great objectives of this program.

So it would seem to me, in answer to the second question, my personal opinion would be that not only would we welcome a Federal coordinator, but I think it should be mandatory.

Mr. BARRETT. You do think it should be mandatory?

Mr. CAVANAGH. Yes.

Mr. BARRETT. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Mr. Cavanagh, in view of the very fine urban renewal program in being in Detroit, I would like to ask you, if the demonstration city program is enacted into law, how long do you think it would take you