

In the preceding paragraph you say :

It is important not to try to set up a national competition which might only stimulate envy and unhappiness among these cities not designated as "demonstration cities."

It seems to me that this is a very real problem. I must say that you seem to be encouraging competition in the planning, but you expressed misgivings, quite understandably, about the competition, the national competitive, as far as the action of other programs are concerned.

Mr. CAVANAGH. On selection.

Mr. ASHLEY. Yes.

Mr. CAVANAGH. I think the selection should come on a first-come, first-served basis as I have stated in my testimony.

Mr. ASHLEY. It is a little hard for me to understand why that should be, Mr. Mayor, because, after all, this is, at least in substantial measure, a demonstration program. And why would it be that if we are measuring the value of demonstration programs that the first that might qualify would be better in terms of a demonstration for the other cities of our county than plans from cities which have very difficult problems which might take longer in the planning stage.

Mr. CAVANAGH. There are several things to consider. One, in a way I see that as a bit of a penalty upon those cities—and there are many across the face of this country—that have done a considerable amount of rather new and imaginative planning in the last 3 or 4 years. And for them to fail to qualify on some other basis than a first-come, first-served basis seems to be in a way slightly unfair to me.

Mr. ASHLEY. Wouldn't you agree too that simply a first-come, first-served basis might tend to obviate the real hard core of problem areas that might require the longer planning? And do you not think that possibly this might be answered in part with an amendment which perhaps you are familiar with that has been suggested; namely, that the criteria contained in the bills be supplemented by two additional requirements for eligibility—first, that the sections or neighborhoods in question be subject to high priority, economic and social pressures, such as population density, crime rate, public welfare participation, delinquency rate, poverty level, unemployment rate, racial strife, and educational levels and disease characteristics; don't you think it might be well to make it incumbent upon the Secretary, who I presume will have the responsibility of making the final decision or selection, to weigh carefully these human considerations which are measurable, as we all know, and to take this into consideration in weighing a particular plan against others that might be proposed?

Mr. CAVANAGH. Let me say in response to that, Mr. Congressman, that I think that those are the sorts of areas that obviously are not only contemplated by the President, but those are the sorts of areas that a local official such as a mayor would automatically receive the obvious first priority in my community without having it rigidly spelled out in the act.

Mr. ASHLEY. That might be true of you, because of the kind of mayor you are. But it might not be true of other mayors in other communities.

Mr. CAVANAGH. Well, I could not conceive of the agency making a selection, other than making a selection on the basis of need. When