

the new Secretary of Transportation as soon as he is set up is a good one. Obviously we don't want to wait until perhaps years from now, when the Department of Transportation might acquire jurisdiction over urban transportation, too.

Mr. SHISHKIN. That is right, I agree with that.

Mr. REUSS. Thank you.

Mr. BARRETT. Thank you, Mr. Reuss.

Mr. Fino?

Mr. FINO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Shishkin, I want to repeat myself, because, based on some questions I have asked, I might have created some wrong impressions. I favor and I support the aims, the objectives, and the purposes of this legislation.

There is one section of this bill which disturbs me, and apparently it has disturbed members of this subcommittee, and apparently based on the testimony of the three mayors, it has created some question. And that is the section which refers or provides for the creation of a Federal coordinator, which I have referred to as a commissar. Now, I am afraid that such a coordinator might unduly interfere with the autonomous powers of the local government. We have had an experience in New York City with a gentleman whom I am sure you are familiar with, Mr. Moses. He was the city construction coordinator under the slum clearance program. And he was the king in that program, and he could do wrong as far as he himself was concerned. He handled that program autonomously and did everything without regard to anyone. He picked his sponsors without regard for ability and that created a mess up there. And, of course, this is the thing that bothers me, that this might happen again.

Now, all three mayors have expressed some interest in how the coordinator would be nominated and appointed. And they have indicated by their testimony that they would be interested in seeing that in this legislation we write something that would permit the mayors of local governments to make recommendations or suggestions as to who the coordinator might be. I brought out yesterday in the testimony of Mr. Lindsay that it would not help in New York City if the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development should pick someone from Washington, D.C., who didn't know anything about New York City except that he visited the city to see some of the areas there. He wouldn't know where the Bronx was or where Bedford-Stuyvesant or Harlem were located. Now, how do you feel about having something in the law, in the legislation that would charge the Secretary to consult with the mayors of the localities on the question of selecting and picking these coordinators?

Mr. SHISHKIN. Well, Mr. Fino, I would like to say first of all that I am familiar to some extent with the problems of the city of New York. And I sympathize with them, and as I think everybody in this country does. And I think the fact is that Bob Moses is not a Federal agent, he is a locally appointed agent.

Mr. FINO. And we had a lot of trouble with him.

Mr. SHISHKIN. He is a locally appointed coordinator, czar if you will. And you are defeating your own purpose by citing that example, because even with having a local coordinator appointed you still have the same problem.

Mr. FINO. Mr. Shishkin, maybe the trouble was because he had that fancy title of coordinator. It made him feel that important.