

a war-burdened economy we cannot have it full score. And there never was a time that you could take a hundred people in a chowline and feed them all at once. They have got to go by one by one. We asked for the advantage that these two great bills offer with whatever technical amendments that this committee wishes to make.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(The complete statement of Mr. Bingham follows:)

STATEMENT OF HERBERT J. BINGHAM, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

Mr. Chairman, I am Herbert J. Bingham, the executive secretary of the Tennessee Municipal League, an organization of town and city governments of Tennessee. I testify generally in support of the Demonstration Cities Act and the Urban Development Act on behalf of my league, and also on behalf of the National League of Cities, an association of 46 State municipal leagues and of more than 13,500 municipal governments of the Nation.

First, the testimony you have recently heard from Mayor Jerome P. Cavanagh of Detroit, president of the National League of Cities, has my strong endorsement. Of the greatest practical importance in carrying out the Demonstration Cities Act at the local level are his suggestions for modifying financial provisions without unduly increasing the expenditure obligations on the Federal Treasury: an amendment authorizing use of title I urban renewal funds available under the Housing Act to supplement the \$12 million authorization and the \$5 million appropriation proposed for program planning purposes; contract authority to permit immediate availability of the entire \$2.3 billion authorization for supplemental grants when the legislation is enacted, and release of the entire \$2.9 billion 4-year authorization for urban renewal authorized by the Housing Act of 1965.

Mr. Chairman, in all of my 20 years of intensive practice in the field of intergovernmental relations on behalf of cities, the principles and provisions contained in these two magnificent bills promise the most effective contributions to improving urban conditions and urban living. If they are enacted and implemented, President Johnson, Secretary Weaver, their advisers, and this Congress, will have earned and will surely have the gratitude of generations of Americans. If there should be a failure in enactment, funding, or administration, our vast and growing urban communities will continue under the threat of chaos. They will decline in economy, utility, beauty, livability, and culture, and there is the real threat of weakening the fibers of our civilization.

The techniques set forth in both bills are the same—a comprehensive systems approach involved unified planning and coordinated administration.

In the demonstration cities bill, disadvantaged people and the deteriorated physical environment of the slum areas of cities are to be dealt with comprehensively. In reality, it is merely a combination of the tried and tested urban renewal program and the somewhat new antipoverty program.

The urban development bill merely applies to entire metropolitan areas the tried and tested programs of comprehensive community planning and functional planning, with the new ingredient of coordinated execution.

I am especially pleased to detect in both bills an obvious reluctance to add to the proliferation of specialized Federal-local programs, and a strong philosophy of returning to local governments, to the maximum extent feasible, control over planning and execution of urban improvement projects.

It is somewhat amazing and highly significant that neither of these bills would add new types of Federal aid to the some 140 existing programs of assistance to various facilities and operations of governments in urban communities. The bills call only for systematic planning and execution.

The demonstration cities proposal is straightforward in its methodology. Federal grants of 80 percent are provided for the process of planning a system to maximize the social services and the physical rehabilitation of a complete neighborhood or other large and logical slum area of a city, under the auspices of a single agency, unifying in a corrective program the people of the area and the governmental agencies and private institutions involved. Administration of a city's improvement program is supported by 80 percent Federal grants for the administrative aspects, to be carried out by a local instrumen-