

tensifying urban development in rural areas around both our metropolitan communities and small cities have created situations beyond our competence to control, even with the powers of our cities to expand their boundaries and service areas. The metropolitanwide approach contemplated in this bill offers solid hope for greater progress in solving the problems of rapid urbanization.

In conclusion, I would like to report as an example illustrating the need for both of these bills the Nation's outstanding effort by a metropolitan center to cure the blight of an old central city and to serve the onrush of new urban growth. I am speaking now of the new metropolitan government of Nashville and Davidson County, formed 3 years ago by abolition of the old city and county governments and the substitution of a new single metropolitan government with county-wide jurisdiction.

In spite of able and energetic leadership in both the old city and the county, the 22-square-mile central city did not have jurisdiction to plan and serve suburban development; and the old county, structured for rural governmental programs, did not have the functional authority for urban service. As a consequence, for some two generations rapid suburban growth occurred outside the central city, involving a population of more than 230,000 urbanites in an unplanned and ill-served urban environment. Meanwhile, the old central city was suffering from 150 years of mistakes in land use and development, principally before the science of urban planning for growth had even been discovered.

This metropolitan government, continuing a program instituted by the old city and county, is embarked on a gigantic \$750 million program of corrective improvements of basic facilities and of urban renewal. In excess of \$200 million of urban renewal projects have been completed, or are underway at one stage or another, to rebuild and to revitalize more than 11 square miles of the old central city. In excess of \$350 million of express and major thoroughfare highway improvements are in progress under joint Federal, State, and local government financing. A water and sewer extension program in the former suburban area—to cost in excess of \$150 million—has been completely engineered, financial arrangements are completed, and construction is well underway. A large program of parks and open space is in execution. A minimal storm drainage program is still in the thinking stage, except in the most critical situations. Every other available program to deal with the disadvantages of the community is being vigorously and fully applied—including an outstanding antipoverty program, various measures in the field of education, almost 30,000 units of low-rent public housing, and other measures.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, as the experience of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County teaches us, we must rebuild; but even more, we must employ our newer technologies and new techniques of public administration to avoid in the future the expensive mistakes of the past. We must avoid unplanned and ill-served urban developments. The President in his message on this bill pointed out that the Federal Housing Administration has assisted in the financing of 8 million single-family dwellings. But we have learned that the finest homes, if in a poor urban environment, can become the slums of tomorrow.

If the Congress will give our new Urban Department and its Secretary and the President the tools afforded by these bills, I can assure you that the vigorous and public-spirited governmental and civic leadership of our urban communities will build a better urban America. At the same time they will provide a better life for those in our cities who suffer the alienation and hopelessness which inevitably accompany lack of opportunity.

Mr. BARRETT. Thank you very much, Mr. Bingham. I am quite sure some of the members will want to ask a few questions, hoping that we won't detain you too long.

I just have a very short question here. And I just want to tell you that we appreciate your statement and your strong support for the President's program.

Some critics of the demonstration cities bill have either stated or implied that it offers a program which would be helpful only to large cities. I agree with the President that it would work in cities of all sizes. But I would like to ask you specifically whether a demonstration cities program would be of benefit to medium-sized or small cities, let's say, in the State of Tennessee. What is your reaction on that?