

urban renewal experts that we have. Many at these hearings have demonstrated their ability to make this a team that will go into these demonstration cities, working with the people in these cities, who are more familiar with the specific problems, and say, now, this is the manner in which we are going to prepare the plan for execution, so that we would then really have a demonstration city, a model city, so to speak, as to how this could be done. What would your opinion be on that concept?

Mr. BINGHAM. Well, I think that is a wonderful concept. And I do think in the demonstration cities program that we need some departmental backup for the local efforts at planning, and so on. And we have interchange of information between the demonstration cities in their planning and execution. And I am sure that the Department will fulfill that function of backup support.

Mr. St GERMAIN. It seems to me—and I certainly firmly believe after listening to testimony for a week now—that if this is going to be successful, that we should not just take a chance haphazardly that certain cities are going to come up with good plans. We should provide these cities with the best plan that is available, the best one at our disposal, and let them help those cities prepare their plans and execute them.

I have nothing further, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BINGHAM. I think that is a great idea, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Bingham, we certainly appreciate your coming here and giving us this constructive testimony. Thank you very much.

Mr. BINGHAM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been a great privilege.

Mr. BARRETT. We have as our next witness, Mr. Elmer George.

Mr. Elmer George, will you come forward?

Elmer George is the executive director of the Georgia Municipal Association, and he is a very good friend of our very capable member, Bob Stephens of Georgia.

And I am quite sure, Mr. George, that Bob would want to make a welcoming statement on your behalf. Mr. Stephens?

Mr. STEPHENS. Mr. Chairman, thank you for extending that courtesy to me and for letting me welcome Mr. Elmer George to the hearing, and to say that we are happy to have him back before our committee. He has not only been before the Housing Subcommittee, but he has also testified before our whole Banking and Currency Committee. I particularly remember the assistance that he gave this committee in the mass transportation legislation that we considered a couple of years ago.

I would also like to point out to you that Elmer George has held the position as executive director of the Georgia Municipal Association for a long time. And you don't hold that kind of job a long time unless you have been doing a good job.

The thing that I would like to point out to the members of the committee is that in the work that Mr. George has done he has not favored the large municipal areas over the small municipal areas. He has not let himself be crowded into a corner, representing just one segment of municipal problems in Georgia. But I think that the mayors of the various towns in Georgia feel like that any problem