

Mr. BARRETT. I have just one short question here that I would like to ask you.

I want to thank you for your very fine statement here this afternoon. Anyone coming from Atlanta is always welcome here. We do have some very fine members from your very great State. Charlie is one of our most knowledgeable members on the full Banking and Currency Committee.

He might want to ask you one or two questions on mass transportation, and when he desires we will give that opportunity.

First, I do want to thank you on behalf of the subcommittee for your excellent and informative statement. I would like to ask you the same question that I asked Mayors Cavanagh and Lindsay earlier this week. Some people seem to have the fear that the Federal coordinator which the bill would set up for each demonstration city program would be some sort of a Federal dictator or czar. Of course, I do not think this is so. And I do think the bill makes this very clear, that they should not have any fears of a dictatorial power by this coordinator. I would like to ask you two questions: First, would the people who have such fears feel better, do you think, if we renamed the Federal coordinator or the Federal official as a local coordinator rather than a Federal coordinator?

And second, do you think the idea of making the services of a coordinator optional to the participating cities would be more acceptable in Atlanta, or any city if they had the opportunity to indicate who they think would be the most effective person to work between their respective city and Washington?

Mr. BENNETT. With respect to the first question, of course, I would think that any fear of a coordinator becoming anything like a dictator would be ridiculous. But there are people who speak against Federal aid for fear of having some strings attached. For that reason, I would emphasize the word "local" in the title somehow.

Now, the question of whether or not it should be mandatory is one that is very interesting. It seems to me that all metropolitan areas need much more information and much more coordination in Federal programs than we have had up to now. We have at the city and State levels discussed seriously setting up such a job ourselves. But I think it would be better if the Federal Government did it, and I would assume for political reasons it might be more expedient to have the provisions of the bill provide for an optional local choice.

Mr. BARRETT. Thank you very much.

Mr. Weltner, would you like to ask any questions?

Mr. WELTNER. Mr. Chairman, if time permits, I have a few questions. But I would defer to the members of the subcommittee.

Mr. BARRETT. I am sure they will give you a chance to ask your questions.

Mr. WELTNER. I do have some questions I would like to ask the witness.

Mr. Bennett, thank you for your usual concise and clear statement. I was interested in two points. You have submitted to the Office of Transportation a \$1.1 million request under section 702. And as you have stated, that request has not materialized because of lack of funds. I would like to know whether or not, consistent with sound procedures and with the conservation of money and resources, it would be possible