

knows what we have done. For instance, we passed a bill last year called the Solid Wastes Disposal Act. And I voted for that bill, and I am all for the disposal of solid wastes. But I doubt very seriously if many municipalities have the slightest idea that there is such a program, and whether or not it is being funded, they have no concept that they might receive some real help in some serious public problems. What is your opinion of the bill which provides grants for urban information centers?

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. Congressman, that is very interesting to me, and I meant to comment on it, although I did not.

This, to me, would provide what we have had to dig out for ourselves in a rather awkward way by two or three different agencies trying to keep up with the Congress and trying to get before the people the assistance which is available to them.

I think you will find that I have a letter in the coming Sunday paper in which I point out how little we have used the planning assistance, the 701, outside of the metropolitan planning assistance, which has done very well. Of the individual governments of the five counties around Atlanta only one has a 701 project, and yet they are all eligible. Of the cities outside of Atlanta, 43 municipalities, only 4 or 5 have used 701 assistance. This is in an area where we have been trying to improve planning and where people want to improve planning. And I cannot quite understand the reluctance to take advantage of the Federal programs, although as you point out, one reason is the lack of understanding. The establishment of an information center with 50 percent Federal assistance, as you indicate here, would be a project which my planning commission could very well undertake. And this could be tied in with something like a seminar in a large conference such as we had last year when you gave that magnificent speech at the Biltmore Hotel about what had been done. And this had a great attendance, as you know. And I think we could have a project of great value to the community which would include both the information center and the development of further meetings, informational meetings such as that.

Mr. WELTNER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

That is all, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Moorhead?

Mr. MOORHEAD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Bennett, I had occasion to visit your community just a year ago. And I certainly saw that it is an alive and growing community. And I think it is fortunate that you are doing some planning so that you do not have this unplanned growth that some of the older cities have.

I come from the city of Pittsburgh. And in our county we have 128 separate municipalities. And we have not yet found the key to getting them to work together.

I am interested, therefore, in your council of local governments. How is that established? Is it voluntary, or—or is it by statute? Or how does it operate?

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. Moorhead, this is a very loosely organized voluntary association of counties and municipalities which was done in 1964. The metropolitan planning commission called a meeting of all the governments asking if they would be interested in going further in forming such a council. And they expressed an interest. And then