

we wrote bylaws, and we elected officers. And we have three or four standing committees. It does not have any power. It is purely voluntary. Its purposes are to bring about harmonious action among the governments, to provide a place for exchange of information and to provide opportunity and mechanism for the governments to coordinate their activities and work together on common problems.

Now, it has not gone very far very fast. But the idea is sound. And I believe it has projects for the future which will be extremely effective.

As a result of this, the best thing we have done up to now has been the establishment of what I mentioned in my prepared statement, Metropol, which is an organization of law enforcement officials throughout the six-county area. This did three things immediately. It increased the efficiency of communication among police forces and sheriffs where communications had been bad. We put in a teletype system which paid for itself the first month by getting information on stolen cars and catching criminals across county lines and among cities.

The second thing, we established a fugitive squad, which is a metropolitan squad of officers contributed to by several governments, providing a chance to use teamwork in the capture of criminals and searching for those that are known to have come into the area, and so on.

The third thing we did was to develop a good training program. Within a few months we gave a hundred hours of training to each of over 300 police officers who would not have had that training had it not been for Metropol. This was tremendous. And the FBI agents in the area cooperated and confirmed the value of this, and have urged us to continue with it.

At the same time we have had Metropol going, only since last June, the crime rate in Atlanta has gone down. We cannot take all the credit, but I think that some of it goes to Metropol and to metropolitan coordination and cooperation in this business of fighting crime which goes across jurisdictional boundaries.

Mr. MOORHEAD. Mr. Bennett, are you in a position to comment on title II of this act which deals with new communities? Do you want to state whether you favor or oppose the enactment of title II?

Mr. BENNETT. I am no authority on that subject. I generally personally favor it, but I would prefer not to go into much detail, because it would be purely a personal opinion. I am not working in that field myself.

Mr. MOORHEAD. Have you studied and do you care to comment on the demonstration cities bill?

Mr. BENNETT. It seems to me that—I have not studied the bill carefully, but it seems to me that there is a parallel between this bill and the demonstration cities bill. And I notice that there is no likelihood of any conflict or overlap. To me this is an exciting possibility, and I think it is something that we are coming to in this very fast changing urbanization period.

Mr. MOORHEAD. Thank you, Mr. Bennett.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. Stephens?

Mr. STEPHENS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to apologize for being late. We stayed here until 1 o'clock listening to another fellow Georgian and I could not get back quite