

far enough. You recommend that his duties should be extended to provide a clearinghouse for all Federal programs in the metropolitan area. You know most of our witnesses have had reservations of one kind or another. And I am glad to see such an outstanding consultant as you making this observation.

Would you indicate how you feel about having him considered on an optional basis or a mandatory basis, and whether he should be selected by the Federal authorities only, or whether he should be recommended by the local authorities and then discussed completely with the local and the Federal authorities to get the best results that we can from a coordinator?

Mr. WISE. Well, Mr. Chairman, as a matter of principles of political science, I believe that the Federal coordinator should be appointed by the Federal Government. I have observed a large number of regional directors at work in the old Housing and Home Finance Agency, and they are very effective people. They are not trying to put their leg on both sides of the political street at the same time. Of course, they want to get along with the local people. But basically they are Federal employees and they are appointed by the Federal Government. If they are obnoxious locally they are not appointed. But that is a part of the political process.

We see this very important office of the Federal coordinator as a two-way street. I do not read the legislation as saying that he is going to be there solely to protect the Federal interest, if you please, but he is to be there to provide a clearinghouse, to provide a single point of reference with regard to the many, many programs that this administration hopes to bring to bear on a coordinated fashion in this marvelous demonstration cities idea.

Now, as I have indicated, I have worked with the planning commission in Philadelphia and many, many other places. And until very recently it has been difficult to coordinate within one city—and it is not just Philadelphia, I can speak for the State of California and the State of Texas as well, sir—the activities of the many Federal agencies that are involved. I think perhaps the term “coordinator” might raise the hackles on the back of some peoples’ necks, because it sounds more like a director. But if this were a representative whose job it was to represent the total Federal interest and could come back, then, and coordinate through the Bureau of the Budget the activities of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior, it would be a splendid thing.

But to answer your question directly, I do not see how this person can be appointed by anybody but the U.S. Government.

Mr. BARRETT. Thank you.

Mr. HARVEY?

Mr. HARVEY. Mr. Wise, you have made a very fine statement. There are a couple of questions I have.

The pages are not numbered, but where you discuss the urban information centers on one of the last pages, about the middle of that page you referred to section 404(a) authorizes 50 percent Federal grants. And you recommend, I believe, that it be increased to two-thirds.

Mr. WISE. Yes, sir.

Mr. HARVEY. What amount of money are we talking about there? Do you know what it would cost to do that?