

ference—a report of which I would like to file for the record—we have presently three other studies in prospect: a review of the American experience with the three greenbelt towns built in the 1930's, an analysis of British experience with land-development policy and limitation of city growth, and a review of the Israeli land-use control system. We should like to recommend that the new Department initiate a research and development program in this area, a matter it is particularly qualified to undertake.

I will not dwell on title III of H.R. 12946, Mr. Chairman, except to say that local operating officials strongly support the development of adequate mass transportation systems and give approval to the increase in authorization and extension of the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964 as requested in this title.

As to title IV—grants for urban information centers—we are enthusiastic about the potential of such centers. Our members are continually hampered by a lack of adequate material and the diffuseness and uncoordinated status of facts on our urban “condition.” As we read the legislation, it should not only be possible to assemble data on the basic characteristics, sources of assistance, and problem trends with respect to particular metropolitan or State areas—but to stimulate the orderly collection by other agencies of additional needed facts, for dissemination through the centers. Most individual cities have not yet managed to set up such centers of local information—but a beginning, on the State and metropolitan level, as envisaged in the bill, should have a stimulating effect on the whole field of urban data collection. This could be particularly the case if such centers were related to college and university programs.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to devote the balance of my testimony to H.R. 13065 and offer some suggestions for improving our existing programs, which after all, must bear the burden of urban development progress in the vast majority of communities not participating in any of the above demonstration programs.

Mr. Chairman, there are a number of amendments in H.R. 13065 that NAHRO feels are particularly important. While endorsing the entire bill, we would like to comment briefly on sections 104, 105, 106, and 107.

*Section 104. Low-rent housing for displaced families—Term of lease.*—This amendment would provide for greater flexibility under the promising new program of private leasing by making it possible to lengthen the limit on the term of lease (3 years) in the case of displaced families. This should make the new private leasing program even more effective as a relocation assistance tool.

*Section 105. Low-rent housing—Use of newly constructed private housing.*—This amendment would make it possible to achieve broader use of private housing resources in a local community for low-income families, including new as well as existing private housing and would also encourage joint ventures between local housing authorities and private owners in low- and middle-income housing.

*Section 106. Applying advances in technology to housing and urban development.*—One of the important guidelines (No. 7) in the President's 1966 message on urban development is “to take advantage of modern cost-cutting technology without reducing the quality of work.” If this guideline is to have a realistic application, an intensive effort