

must be made at once to search out the best technology which can be utilized in rapidly expanding construction programs in the urban development field. This program of assistance should provide valuable insight on the most productive ways to apply advanced technical knowledge in a practical and broad-scale effort, without sacrificing quality.

*Section 107. Rehabilitation and code enforcement grants.*—We agree with the administration that the limitations on the amount of urban renewal grants available for the new rehabilitation and code enforcement programs provided for in the Housing Act of 1965 seriously hamper the success of these programs. We therefore, strongly support the removal of these limitations as provided for in this suggested amendment.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to propose for your earnest consideration some additional amendments to the law not in the current bill. We consider these of priority concern.

We would like to call the attention of Congress to the fact that local government officials are faced with two urgent code enforcement problems: first, that of enforcing housing and related codes within an intensive program to conserve basically sound areas and prevent them from becoming tomorrow's slums; and, second, that of enforcing these codes in the worst slum areas as an immediate remedy for substandard housing conditions, merely to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants.

Last year, Congress enacted section 117 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 authorizing grants for concentrated code enforcement programs in deteriorated and deteriorating areas. This provision goes far toward meeting the first problem, but ignores the second—the more urgent code enforcement problem. This is because concentrated code enforcement programs under section 117 are not authorized for use in the most depressed slum and blighted areas.

These are areas that are likely to be the principal target of the demonstration cities program presently under consideration. They demand immediate attention in order to alleviate the seriously hazardous conditions under which residents of such areas are often forced to live which, in turn, create some of the explosive tensions and other conditions of social unrest. Code enforcement is the only tool with which local governments can provide immediate housing relief in these areas. Ultimately, of course, the worst slum areas will require more extensive renewal treatment.

However, pending such treatment, they continue to house vast numbers of people. At the least, the inhabitants of these areas should be assured housing that meets minimum standards of health, safety, and welfare. Therefore, we urge this subcommittee to amend or clarify section 117 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 to allow slum and blighted areas to be eligible for the Federal grant-in-aid assistance authorized under this section.

Mr. Chairman, we would also like to point out that the grant-in-aid formula under sections 116 and 117 of the 1965 act does not follow the pattern established in urban renewal grant-in-aid programs and thus presents a serious inequity. We, therefore, recommend that sections 116, Demolition Grants, and 117, Concentrated Code Enforcement Grants, be amended so that the grant-in-aid assistance for cities of less