

Mr. BLACKMON. On a bill, I think it is always good to have—I should say it is desirable to have good planning and I believe that we need to encourage this more. I see nothing wrong, as I said earlier, with the increase of the amount of financial aid for these facilities, but I certainly am strong for well-planned, programed, communities.

Mr. WIDNALL. I do not mean doing away with planning, but I think the simple standards would qualify and my own bill would generate quicker activity. This should be seriously considered.

Mr. BLACKMON. Yes, sir.

Mr. WIDNALL. I do not have any other questions. Thank you very much.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Moorhead?

Mr. MOORHEAD. Mr. Blackmon, I would like to ask you a little bit more about your attitude toward these coordinators or expeditors. Do I understand, sir, that you propose that we have coordinators or expeditors in every metropolitan area and not just in cities which have been selected as demonstration cities?

Mr. BLACKMON. No; I think our testimony was concerning the demonstration city bill and it was dealing with those cities that are designated as demonstration cities. That is where the focus is going to be at this time. There are, conceivably, some cities that would have very little activity in Federal programs and, therefore, there would not be a need for a coordinator.

I think first we should follow this experiment through to a point to find out what it can accomplish and what it costs to accomplish it, and then make a judgment as to what we should do in the future on expanding it to other cities. It has some merit of decentralizing, but I think first we need to get the benefit of this experiment.

Mr. MOORHEAD. I am glad to get this clarified.

What we are saying is, for these urban information centers, that they be limited to demonstration cities and those urban information centers be handled through the coordinator, namely, the demonstration city?

Mr. BLACKMON. That is correct.

Mr. MOORHEAD. It appears to me that there will be a great many cities not selected as demonstration cities which nevertheless will have, as they have today, a great many Federal programs going on. It would seem to me, to avoid duplication and avoid unnecessary delays and so forth, that even in those cities, not demonstration cities, a coordinator might be helpful.

Mr. BLACKMON. I have to go back to my earlier statement, that this is, again, something new and we need to feel our way on the thing.

Now some of your cities that you are talking about that have a lot of Federal programs that might not be selected, most of these cities are fairly sophisticated and they are fairly knowledgeable or they have staff that is knowledgeable as to the Federal programs, and they are working it pretty well as it is now. It was brought out, I believe by one of the gentlemen here, that some of the cities were asking for almost as much for their city as the whole demonstration program authorizes.

They have some pretty big ideas. So, therefore, we again feel that we should go with the demonstration programs, but find out what are the problems before we start establishing other offices around the country.