

Mr. MOORHEAD. One of the witnesses that came before this subcommittee suggested that the coordinator come, not out of the Housing and Urban Development Department but be named from the Bureau of the Budget. What is your reaction to that?

Mr. BLACKMON. I believe I answered the gentleman here awhile ago that any man selected should be real knowledgeable as to the Federal programs that are available. If he is going to be an expeditor of assistance to the local people, then he has to know what these programs are all about.

If he be local and understands the local situation, I think he has got to be versatile enough to work with the local people.

As far as the Bureau of the Budget is concerned, as I understand, these programs are already under law and they are merely administering what we already have in existence, I can't see why the Bureau of the Budget should enter into it at this particular point.

Mr. MOORHEAD. I am not urging, I am just searching for ideas.

Some of the programs come out of HEW, the Department of Agriculture, OEO, or other departments, and there is only one agency in Government that has control over all of the agencies.

Mr. BLACKMON. Wherever he comes from, I think he has got to be responsible.

Mr. MOORHEAD. I quite agree with you. The individual, if he is a good one, can do it no matter where he comes from. If he is no good, it does not matter where he comes from. I agree with you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Stephens?

Mr. STEPHENS. To further follow up on the question about the coordinator, it seems to me that if there is a coordinator, that it would be more sensible for the State of Texas or the State of Georgia to employ somebody that would be working for the State of Texas or Georgia, instead of for the United States, as a coordinator. And then he would feel, and I know, in Georgia, we would feel that they had somebody that was on their side all the time and was looking out for their interests. It would save some money for the United States not to have the coordinators, and I think it might be better to put him on the State payroll.

What do you think of that?

Mr. BLACKMON. We are fortunate in the great State of Texas that our Governor had the foresight, that he has established an office here in Washington which he has staffed to try to coordinate the activities of the Federal Government with our State and I think he should be commended for trying to do this.

However, when you get to a State level, you find that there could be a conflict—the coordinator is responsible, really, to make the program operate on a local basis, and work with the local citizens. I can see that if you have many programs going in a State—again it gets back to the local government and working closely with the local people—that he could do probably a better job. If you have one State man, he may have a conflict between the communities.

Mr. STEPHENS. What I had in mind would be, as in the watershed programs. Those watershed programs are community projects. They go through the State committee and work out pretty good, finally coming to the Federal representatives for advice and counsel. The