

agency would not have to assume operational control of all projects and activities that are part of the local demonstration program." He cites that urban renewal and education would continue to be carried out by the agency having responsibility for them. This would also be the case for other functions such as welfare, recreation, health, and so forth. These are often county responsibilities and they would be an essential part of the social rebuilding and revitalization of any area or neighborhood.

Consequently, we suggest the title "Demonstration Community Act" would be more appropriate and helpful in defining the program. It will avoid a distinct possibility of isolating the program, thereby creating a situation which would greatly encumber any effort to gain areawide cooperation.

STATE ASSISTANCE

We would submit that in the Urban Development Act, and what we would call the "Demonstration Community Act" there be some provision to encourage the State governments to participate. This could be accomplished by an additional Federal grant to match any State contribution.

BUILDING CODES

Section 4(c)(3) requires that the program be designed to make maximum use of new and improved technology and design including cost reduction in techniques. To assist in utilizing our known technology and cost-reduction techniques, we urge that Congress direct the preparation of a model building code. Today, it is estimated that there are 5,000 separate building codes in the United States. A great many communities have no codes at all. Most of the existing codes are specification codes. Many of these have restricted the free use of unimproved products because many of the specification codes favor one product over another and thereby restrict competition.

At present there are four major proprietary codes sold to local subscribers. Manufacturers have pointed out that the variations between these codes and restrictions added by their subscribers have made it difficult to apply fully mass manufacturing techniques to the factory and national sale of housing and building components. Such a mass process is comparable to those which have given us the relatively inexpensive automobile and electrical appliance. One authoritative magazine has estimated that the code jungle may add \$1,000 to the cost of new houses.

The National Association of Counties joins the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations in recommending that all levels of government and the proprietary code groups participate in the drafting of a model performance code. It recommends that the drafting be done by a separate group or as a part of the program of the temporary National Commission on Codes, Zoning, and Tax Commission and Development Standards recommended by the President's 1965 message on urban areas.

We appreciate very much the opportunity of participating in these hearings today and I will be pleased to answer any questions you might have regarding our testimony.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. McDonald, I certainly want to thank you for a very splendid statement.