

On page 4 of your statement you discuss the proposal—the proposed new program of grants for information centers. This is an entirely new idea before this committee. I wonder if you heard the testimony of Mr. Blackmon, of the Home Builders, who preceded you? Mr. Blackmon thought that instead of urban information centers, it would be preferable that the information be made available through the coordinators. Do you agree with the Home Builders' recommendation?

Mr. McDONALD. I will have to clarify that a bit, sir.

We of the National Association of Counties feel that this coordinator for these programs could and should be a county employee, an employee of either the county or, in some cases, an employee of existing intergovernmental units that would provide this service.

In our area, for instance, in Detroit, we have an organization made up of six counties, a committee that works in many areawide problems and it was our thought that perhaps in that area, the coordinator of these programs could be the coordinator of that body to handle the programs for the entire area.

Mr. BARRETT. Why would we have to have two officers instead of one? Can you comment on that?

Mr. McDONALD. I am not suggesting that we have two. I am suggesting that we have one officer. I am suggesting that we really have the center of the coordinator, or whatever you want to call him, he would work for the local unit, the county, and in this case would be working on a supplemental grant from the Federal Government to provide his salary.

Mr. BARRETT. Let me ask you this question. As you know, H.R. 12946 provides open-end authorization for appropriation for the supplemental grants under the proposed urban development program. Apparently you feel that the \$25 million requested by the President in his budget message is too little for these grants. Could you give us some idea of how much would be needed in the first year and how this program might grow?

Mr. McDONALD. Well, it would be difficult to say, to answer that question.

I might point out that many of the problems inherent in the big city, and those that we are trying to take care of in the other bill, are those in the suburban areas and in some cases, even in the rural areas.

It is our feeling and in our discussions—if we were to set a figure on what would be needed, it would pretty much coincide with the demonstration city.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Fino?

Mr. FINO. Mr. McDonald, I understand that Wayne County, or at least the city of Detroit, imposes a 1-percent income tax on the commuters who earn their livelihood in the city of Detroit. Is it not a fact that the ultimate goal of metropolitan planning is the power of regional local taxation in order to pay for the services of local government?

Mr. McDONALD. I will have to ask you to go over that once more.

Mr. FINO. Is it not a fact that the ultimate goal of metropolitan planning is the power of regional local taxation in order to pay for the services of local government?

Mr. McDONALD. I think the reason for metropolitan planning is that we could build our metropolitan areas on a plan that would make