

than a Federal coordinator. Second, do you think that the idea of making the services of a coordinator optional to participating cities rather than mandatory, as now provided in H.R. 12341, would be a solution.

Would you be kind enough to comment on those two questions?

Mr. KEITH. On the first question, Mr. Chairman, as I understand it, the function of this proposed coordinator, certainly it is not to give him any dictatorial powers. If it would make the proposal more acceptable to have a different title, I don't think that is of too great importance.

I do see a very useful role for having present in a locality, on a full-time basis, a representative of the Department of Housing and Urban Development who could act as a coordinator and no doubt in many cases as an expeditor of action by the various Federal departments on programs that are involved in the local program.

With respect to your second question, I would personally see no objection in making this—the establishment of such an office optional on the part of the participating city.

In my opinion, most, if not all, of the participating cities would welcome having such a representative on this scene, on a full-time basis.

One of the frustrating elements, as we all know, of dealing with Federal departments is time-consuming problems that are frequently encountered in getting decisions, involving trips to regional offices, trips to Washington headquarters of these various departments.

Having a full-time office which was fully versed in what the community was trying to accomplish and fully versed in the various Federal programs, would be of great help.

I would quite agree that if we viewed the objective of these jobs as a Federal dictator on local programs, we would strongly oppose it. But we do not believe that is the objective of it.

Mr. BARRETT. Thank you, sir. Mr. Fino.

Mr. FINO. Mr. Keith, in your statement before this committee you expressed some concern and some disturbance over this urban renewal program. You made mention of the fact that there is a tremendous backlog.

What will the demonstration cities do that urban renewal has failed to do?

Mr. KEITH. Well, as I understand, Mr. Fino, the objectives of the demonstration cities program, it would really mean pulling together on a much broader scale the activities that have previously been going on.

As far as urban renewal is concerned, I think it is clear that urban renewal would continue to be the core of the public programs in the participating communities. However, the objectives of the Demonstration Cities Act, as we read them, are first, to broaden the scope of local programs, not only in a physical sense, but in a social sense. It would contemplate, number one, that the program would geographically and in terms of people involve larger undertakings than has been typical under the urban renewal program so far. Second, it would tie together in a single coordinated program all other related Federal aid. And third, it would give major focus and emphasis on expanded social activities in the way of, in part, the various programs—under the so-called antipoverty program—educational pro-