

tion and the Appalachia program to develop their administrative districts in conformance with these regions.

The establishing of demonstration cities or Urban Development Act administrative districts independently of the basic existing regions within the State could only add more frustration and confusion to a scene which badly needs simplicity and uniformity, and could only defeat the coordination objectives which are so central to the main purpose of these bills. The conformation of the 13 regions in Pennsylvania are largely a response to organic local and regional community needs and initiatives. Nothing discourages local initiative so much as a profusion of administrative districts which ignores the local sense of community. We would suggest that the Department of Housing and Urban Development work closely with the States in handling this key element of a successful Federal-State-local inter-governmental relationship. This action would do much to implement the President's desire to bring the whole gamut of diverse governmental programs and resources to bear more directly and effectively on community development needs.

In this connection, we make one more reference to the comprehensive planning requirements which are established as the foundation of the demonstration cities program and which constitute a significant part of the Urban Development Act.

The planning requirements should, indeed, be high and strict as a prerequisite for qualification for supplemental grants with emphasis on the organic community which overlays the arbitrary boundaries of established municipal jurisdiction. This implies a need to encourage the establishment, concomitantly with regional and metropolitan planning, of regional councils of elected officials, to which the planning becomes directly attached as a staff function. We see this as the clear intent and a major thrust of both bills. The objective here is, of course, to require not only that there be effective and adequate metropolitan and regional planning but also that the means be provided for implementing plans prior to the approval of a grant. The President emphasized this principle in his message, and we support it.

In concluding, I would like to add, of course, I personally see, as a representative of the Leagues of Cities, a number of serious problems facing the implementation of legislation of this kind. But I think that we are concerned with expressing the point that this legislation does represent thrust in the right direction, recognizing that the problems do exist.

I think the delineation of these potential problems has been very adequately covered by previous witnesses and I will not attempt to go into those here. I merely want to talk to the adequacy of the general purpose and thrust of this program.

So thanks very much indeed for this opportunity to be here.

Mr. BARRETT. Mayor Barr, you have certainly made a very fine statement, and I would say a very constructive one.

Of course, some people seem to have the impression that the demonstration city bill would be almost exclusively a large city bill.

I don't agree with that in any aspect of the bill. But I would like to hear from you whether you agree that cities of all sizes, large and small, would benefit greatly by participating in the demonstration cities grant program.