

This is a very desirable objective, for, as Dr. Weaver has emphasized:

The rising costs of housing construction, and increasingly complex problems of urban growth, make it imperative that we make the most use at least of the technological advances in knowledge that have already been made in the areas of housing construction and design and urban development.

The Demonstration Cities Act of 1966 is the most important proposal in President Johnson's program for rebuilding America's cities. In his message to the Congress recommending this bill, President Johnson said:

From the experience of three decades, it is clear to me that American cities require a program that will—

Concentrate our available resources—in planning tools, in housing construction, in job training, in health facilities, in recreation, in welfare programs, in education—to improve the conditions of life in urban areas.

Join together all available talent and skills in a coordinated effort.

Mobilize local leadership and private initiative, so that local citizens will determine the shape of their new city.

The President pointed out that this bill would "offer qualifying cities of all sizes the promise of a new life for their people." I am pleased to say that I have joined with a number of the Members of the Congress in both the House and the Senate in cosponsoring this measure which has aroused such widespread interest among urban dwellers, city officers, and the news media.

The problems confronting our cities today have been widely publicized in the newspapers, on the radio and television broadcasts, in textbooks and periodicals, and in past hearings before congressional committees. Slums and blight are widespread. Persons of low incomes have tended to concentrate in our cities as the suburbs have grown and proliferated. The spread of blight, and the overcrowding of established communities have tended to create new slums. Tax funds to cope with these problems have declined as the taxable value of slum and blighted areas has declined. It is a depressing cycle, for at the very time that the need for public services multiplies in our cities, the city's financial ability to provide these needed services has been impaired. Sometimes, it has become clear, the cities with the greatest slum problems have the least capacity for solving them. New methods and new techniques have become necessary and it is to these problems that this Demonstration Cities Act of 1966 is addressed.

The Administration bill establishes Federal "urban coordinators" to assist only those cities qualifying for the demonstration cities program. The amendment which I have offered, instead of setting up new and special coordinating offices, would utilize the 76 existing FHA regional directors, who between them, have jurisdiction for all of the urban areas in the 50 States. After all, if the principle of coordination is sound, as I believe it to be, it is sound for all of our cities, not just for those which are selected and qualify under the Demonstration Cities Act. My amendment provides that to the extent that they need additional specialized help, the Secretary of the Housing and Urban Development is directed to provide it. The amendment would have the advantage, over the formulation tendered by the administration, of cost saving through utilizing existing decentralized Federal personnel and offices. It could provide the needed coordination immediately and it would provide for all urban areas not just the limited 60 or 70