

What is to be included in the "social services necessary,"

What are "maximum opportunities,"

What are "adequate local resources,"

Whether "machinery is available,"

What plans meet "the requirements of the regulations,"

What is "maximum opportunity in the choice of housing," and even "what additional requirements" might be needed.

Anybody, everybody, or nobody could qualify under such requirements—subject to the judgments of the Secretary.

Under these circumstances, it seems apparent that a relatively small group of cities is going to get a lot of Federal money, and that the people in the vast majority of the Nation's 18,000 municipalities (and in its 17,142 townships) will not only not get the money, but will be paying the taxes to provide the few with the money.

How much Federal money will this small group of cities get? While we have heard that the amount will be on the order of \$2.3 billion, no limit (not even such a huge one) is contained in the bill. Instead, H.R. 12341 provides (in sec. 12 on p. 11) :

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

This vacant stare at costs, in a bill overwhelmingly concerned with putting money into a relatively small number of cities, seems to imply either that the work of determining the costs has not been done or that there is a reluctance to divulge and stand on such determinations.

If I may insert another sentence or two beyond that in the text. We would suggest that the Budget Bureau might be able to render such an estimate and that this would be of importance to the committee and to the public. Certainly it would be of great interest to the national chamber.

The national chamber believes that it is important that costs be determined and exposed to full public scrutiny in this important field of city improvement.

Because H.R. 12341 is based on questionable assumptions, extends Federal controls, requires use of all available Federal aids (without specific limitations regarding desirability, appropriateness, or priority), treats symptoms instead of causes of problems, dwells on money without recognition of the importance of people and ideas and leadership, provides no objective criteria for city selection, and would benefit the few at the expense of the many, the national chamber urges that the bill be rejected.

At the same time, however, the national chamber urges that alternative actions be taken to promote city progress.

NATIONAL CHAMBER ACTION FOR CITY PROGRESS

The national chamber works for the achievement of effective and lasting solutions to city problems. We recognize that some cities are achieving greater success than others in working out their problems. But we believe that insufficient attention has been given to many different efforts being made, and that there has been insufficient organized dissemination and interchange of ideas which could speed the progress of additional communities.

Consequently, the national chamber, first, is taking action to bring together, organize, publicize, and disseminate information on alter-