

Therefore, I think it fair to say that we are now moving in the directions which are envisioned in the proposed new legislation.

The problem is, that there are not adequate finances in our city to undertake all of the projects by ourselves which need to be done in our city. In fact, there are not even sufficient funds to engage in the kind of real planning which is necessary just to coordinate, administer, and direct those efforts that we have already undertaken which I described above.

The demonstration city legislation, if passed, would enable us to get on with this job and in fact to do a better job of what we have undertaken.

Now, our budget in Springfield is already stretched almost to the breaking point. We have found it necessary to make rather sizable salary adjustments of our city personnel. We find it necessary in this day and age to attract not just people who want to work for the city, but first-rate personnel, because we are dealing with large and complex problems. We are not just maintaining our housekeeping government as we have in the past. We need first-rate people. Therefore, our budget has been stretched.

We are beset with problems now, but I envision, as I look ahead, that by the end of the century there will be a huge regional city reaching from Columbus, Ohio, through Springfield, Ohio, to Dayton, Ohio, and perhaps even south to Cincinnati.

If proper planning is not done now, even more problems will be faced in this regional city of the future than what we face now. But, if we plan properly now, and the demonstration city legislation would help us to do this, we can, I think, become a model city. We can solve our existing problems, and we can plan to meet these future problems before they arise.

To do this planning one of two things is needed. Either we must have the ability to tax as a local government at a more realistic level, and I frankly don't see that in the picture under our State constitution, or, we must have massive Federal aid as is proposed in the demonstration cities legislation.

Now, if Springfield, Ohio, can become a demonstration city, we have many positive factors which I feel will work together to make the project succeed in Springfield, which is a city having a population of slightly less than 100,000.

In conclusion, let me run over a few of these positive factors which I see in our city.

First of all, we have a new vocational school which will work with the youth of our community at the high school level, training them to go into the labor force with skills.

We have a proposed new technical institute on the junior college level which will train our people who do not desire a full college education but who want to go beyond the high school level, and which will qualify them to enter the labor market with advanced skills.

We are so fortunate in having Wittenberg University which is a liberal arts university dedicated strongly to the principle of helping Springfield in our midst. Springfield in fact sits in the center of a higher education complex.