

its 100th birthday, so our slums are not as vast or as widespread or as severe. But we have them. As a core city of a great and growing metropolitan area, we certainly have not hit rockbottom in deterioration. But we have areas that are sliding. We do not have any deficit financing in our city budget, but our financial problems are critical.

Transportation, highway, police and fire protection, sewage disposal facilities, libraries—all the facilities and services wanted, expected, and deserved by our citizens—are taxing our resources to the breaking point. Urban sprawl with a multiplicity of taxing bodies and community services, coupled with ill-planned, wasteful development, are just as real for us as they would be if we were three times our present age.

We in the West still possess a pioneering spirit and enjoy the challenge of seeking new methods of solving old problems, of exploring better means to reach loftier goals. We like to blaze new trails of procedures and climb high mountains of accomplishments. But we are not foolish enough to spurn proffered assistance, to refuse to grasp a helping hand.

In Denver, we do not look upon the Federal Government as a threat to our local governmental structures, nor upon the State government as a rural-dominated fortress dedicated to withstanding the siege of urban progress.

Next to Washington, Denver is the base for more Federal agencies than any other city in the Nation. And it is the capital of Colorado. Thus, government is one of Denver's major industries. Our citizens feel the State and Federal Governments belong to them and are in existence to serve them just as much as the city government. Each citizen of Denver, like citizens in all other American communities, contribute a portion of their incomes to the support of these governments.

While we believe in exercising maximum local responsibility to meet local problems, we also firmly believe in seeking State and Federal assistance to resolve problems that are beyond our capability of solving. There is, and should be, a partnership among these three levels of government. A spirit of creative federalism must exist if our urban centers are to resolve their problems.

This committee especially recognizes this theory and, in fact, has been cognizant of it for more than 30 years since it has considered proposed urban legislation as long ago as 1933. In 1937 it approved the U.S. Housing Act which created a local-Federal partnership to help meet the housing needs of mushrooming urban populations. This committee has, over the years, collected a great storehouse of information concerning urban problems. The creation of the Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1965 was the culmination of more than three decades of leadership by this committee, by the Congress, and by several administrations.

The Demonstration Cities Act of 1966 is yet another of the progressive pieces of legislation considered by this committee. I am convinced that it, like so many others, will be examined carefully and ultimately approved. Denver, and other western cities, I believe, view this act as an insurance policy, as an investment in the future of our cities.

Because Denver and most urban areas of the West are relatively young, we have an opportunity to arrest blight, to rehabilitate rather