

sirability of establishing a national competition for cities to be designated as "demonstration cities."

Up until now I have dealt in generalities. I would be remiss if I failed to speak specifically of Denver's needs and plans and offer a specific suggestion on how I think this act might be improved.

Last June 26, the Denver metropolitan area experienced a \$300 million flood disaster through the valley of the South Platte River. Within 3 weeks the Department of Housing and Urban Development had funded a \$240,000 urban renewal planning advance, to permit us to plan the renewal, replanning, and rebuilding of a 10-square-mile area, or 10 percent of the city's total land area, which cuts through the very center of our city. Without Federal help, it would have been impossible for us to even approach this challenging job.

This Federal-local government partnership must be continued and the first task is to achieve maximum flood controls on the South Platte River and its many tributaries. With cooperation from the Congress, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, and others, work toward flood control and channel improvement is moving ahead.

Through our planning advance we are developing an overall, long-term guide for the redevelopment of the entire central section of our city. At the same time we are preparing plans for immediate action based on their economic and financial feasibility. Both our long-term guide and our immediate program plans will be completed within the next 6 weeks.

Our plans call for the rehabilitation of housing and industry, the creation of extensive parks and recreation centers, beautification of the entire river channel and valley, the creation of a historical and cultural center, possible sites for a major metropolitan college and technical center and a sports center, vital new industrial parks, improved transportation and highways facilities, mid-city sites for housing for low- and moderate-income families, the elimination of slum housing and slum industry, and the creation of a central-city tourist center.

Disaster forced Denver to face up immediately to its major area of blight and to plan for its redevelopment. We are planning for the total job. Our economic and financial feasibility studies which are nearing completion will tell us the costs, the benefits, and the actions required to get the job done.

I mention this specific planning program in some detail, because it meets all the criteria so ably set forth by President Johnson. To get the job done will require Federal assistance, and every local resource that we can command. The planning is not only an example of creative federalism but also a splendid lesson in creative localism.

I present the facts about my city of Denver as typical of the growing West. We ask only to participate on an equal basis with our sister cities throughout the Nation, every one of which can show a vital and present need for the benefits to be derived from the dynamic program recommended by our President.

We plan to create in the heart of our city a gateway to the West which will develop into a great national asset, a beautiful environment for the ever-increasing number of Americans who are making the decision to go West, and to live in Colorado. It will be part of our