

trols over land use, and a higher risk attached to the possibilities of complete structural rehabilitation. On the other hand, out of this experimentation we may achieve a better understanding of the means to be employed in generating self-education and pride on the part of some of the population that presently is poorly equipped to take care of itself.

ROLE OF THE FEDERAL COORDINATOR

Under the proposed legislation, the newly provided Federal coordinator will be an essential force in pulling together the various Federal functions that will be involved in this program.

Because of his importance, it is respectfully suggested that early consideration be given to a special training program that will permit the Government to have a sufficiently large number of qualified individuals available for this function.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER URBAN RENEWAL PROGRAMS

The Demonstration Cities Act will be valuable to the extent that it will broaden and extend the degree to which we can cope with our blighted neighborhoods and slums. As such, it must be viewed as a supplement to, and not a replacement of, the present renewal program. If, in the process of getting started it has the effect of draining funds from the older on-going program, it will, in effect, be self-defeating since that program has built up its present momentum after many years of trials and tribulations. Such a drain will also sharply compromise the serious efforts of mayors, councils, citizen groups, and renewal agencies in securing public understanding and support behind their projects.

I, therefore, urge that appropriate steps be taken so that suitable funds will be made available for the immediate initiation of the Demonstration Cities Act.

CITIES TO BE ELIGIBLE

I strongly endorse the idea that the initial group of cities be of diverse size and type in order to allow the broadest possible experience under the act. However, as soon as this act is approved, citizens in every city that has extensive blighted areas will assume that they, too, have the right to secure the advantages of this act. If not, the effect would be to put a damper on the type of experimentation, social action, and efforts at comprehensive neighborhood revitalization proposed in the act. I say this because our experience with urban renewal, open space funds, 701 planning grants and other grant programs has shown that once such programs are announced, most cities hold back on moving on projects with local funds for which there is even a remote chance that Federal funds may be available.

However, there is still a further reason of even greater importance. In many cities, local citizens and officials have waited for years for an opportunity to deal with some of their major problem areas in a comprehensive fashion. In these cities, if they are not in the initially selected group of demonstration cities, clear-cut criteria permitting them to become so should be set forth to permit the community leaders