

Congress developing concern for high esthetic standards in our Federal programs, the bill encourages cities to do all possible to maintain high quality design in architecture and to preserve where appropriate their historical and cultural heritage.

Mr. Chairman, shortly after the Watts riots in Los Angeles last summer, unhappily now, repeated to a degree, I called for a congressional inquiry into our areas of urban friction. In my speech on the floor on September 9, I suggested that consideration be given to better coordination of Federal programs in housing, welfare, job training, education, and antipoverty efforts. I said that "Part of our problem now seems to be the lack of concentration of those efforts where the most could be achieved." And I advocated that certain areas be designated by the Federal Government as eligible for concentrated aid.

I am hopeful, therefore, that this Demonstration Cities Act, with its provisions for concentrated assistance to blighted neighborhoods and its provisions to help cities participate more fully in existing Federal aid programs will do much to eradicate the causes of social unrest and despair.

Mr. Chairman, I would also urge the subcommittee's favorable report on the Urban Development Act. This bill contains authorizations for assistance to planned metropolitan development. In the last few years the Congress has passed landmark legislation dealing with water pollution prevention, open-space land and urban beautification, and grants for water and sewer facilities.

In all these pieces of legislation and many others, the Congress has required comprehensive planning as a prerequisite for Federal assistance. Now, Mr. Chairman, if we lay this necessary task on local governments, it seems to me altogether proper that we also do what we can to aid them in their planning. Certainly we do not want to jeopardize the pace of our urban development programs by imposing new planning burdens on our localities which they cannot financially afford.

The other key provisions of the Urban Development Act is that authorizing mortgage insurance for builders who develop "new communities." I look on the development of such entirely new towns as a creative way to meet the growth in population and to alleviate the crowding of our central cities. This is the third time this proposal has come before the Congress, and each year we delay, the more difficult becomes the fulfillment of an inevitable responsibility—that of rationally guiding the necessary land development to accommodate urban growth.

The other bills now being considered by this distinguished subcommittee are the housing and urban development amendments and the group practice facilities bill. The first strengthens our housing programs for low- and moderate-income persons by liberalizing FHA insurance provisions and by facilitating the lease of low-rent housing for displaced families. The group practice facilities bill will enable the Federal Housing Administration to assure the availability of credit on reasonable terms for the construction and equipment of facilities for the group practice of medicine or dentistry.

A most important contribution to our country. Other bills that are following along—there are going to be increasing needs for pro-