

facility to assist the demonstration city. Later in my statement I suggest an amendment to the Urban Development Act to establish the first urban information centers in coordination with the demonstration cities. Such a relationship will, we believe, provide great assistance to the demonstration cities program and, at the same time, demonstrate the utility of the urban information center.

II. URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACT

GRANTS TO ASSIST IN PLANNED METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT

The AIA agrees with the findings expressed in the proposed Urban Development Act and supports the purpose of the legislation, which is to encourage the States and localities to make effective comprehensive metropolitan planning and programming.

Earlier in my statement I described the Topsy-like growth of our cities and the unwholesome result of inadequate planning. I want to stress, at this point, our approval of the local initiative and creative federalism written into this legislation. Only through Federal, State, and local cooperation and participation can comprehensive metropolitan planning be accomplished.

LAND DEVELOPMENT AND NEW COMMUNITIES

The AIA is pleased to find a section of this bill adding a new provision to the existing land development program under title X of the National Housing Act, authorizing mortgage insurance for new communities. We have, over the years, recognized the immense values inherent in FHA programs. In 1964, Roy Carroll, Jr., then president of the Institute, testified before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee and endorsed the program as follows:

This concept represents the recognition of the vital need for planning the future growth of populated urban areas which, heretofore, have been left to sprawl and grow with little or not attempt to anticipate the consequences which we are realizing today.

Again, we recommend this program because we believe it will be an important step in creating the sound urban environments of tomorrow.

We believe it is important to incorporate into new communities a fundamental concern for design quality. Fortunately, many proposed communities are now being planned and built with this concern for quality in design. We hope that this pattern will be firmly established and that future projects will provide attention to design quality of the total urban environment.

We would like to see written into the "new communities provisions of this legislation (title II, sec. 1004) the same concern for good design and improved technology that is expressed in the Demonstration Cities Act. This could be accomplished by an amendment directing the Secretary, in determining whether a development would be eligible for approval as a new community, to give maximum consideration: (1) To whether the new community will apply a high standard of design and will, as appropriate, maintain natural, historical, and cultural characteristics; and (2) to whether the new community is designed to make maximum use of new and improved technology and design, including cost reduction techniques.