

You will recognize this language as nearly identical to the directives given the Secretary under the proposed Demonstration Cities Act to take into consideration in determining whether a city demonstration program is eligible for assistance.

In his testimony on demonstration cities, Secretary Weaver said:

Revitalizing the Nation's cities requires more than the construction and rehabilitation of homes and buildings. City demonstration programs should contain special efforts to make new and existing structures as fresh and attractive as possible. Massive rebuilding and restoration programs provide exceptional opportunities for applying the fruits of technological advances to homebuilding and rehabilitation industries. Cities should encourage the maximum use of such advances in building.

The same reasoning applies to new community programs. Here we have the opportunity to make a fresh start, there is nothing to discard or build around. Indeed, from a pristine beginning, architects and all professionals participating in the planning of a new community should be able to realize their greatest achievements.

URBAN INFORMATION CENTERS

The Institute supports the concept of urban information centers. The great host of programs developed by Federal, State, and local governments to deal with urban problems requires a central depository to collect and disseminate information.

Secretary Weaver, in describing the work of the centers, said they would—

assemble, correlate, and disseminate information and data on the physical, social, and economic problems of urban areas, and on the governmental and other programs dealing with such programs. The coordinator—

Secretary Weaver explained—

will expedite and coordinate Federal contributions and technical assistance to the various projects and activities that are a part of the approved demonstration program.

While we are fully in accord with the aims of the information centers program, the AIA suggests it be correlated with the demonstration cities program. We believe the Federal coordinator position contemplated by the Demonstration Cities Act should be closely associated with, or part of, the urban information center. Such an approach would give both programs the greatest chance for success and literally prove to be demonstrations.

We also suggest that urban information centers, and I believe this is a new point, include a presentation of the best design standards for "street furniture" such as benches, trash receptacles, directional and street identification signs, highway standards, and many other essential elements of urban street equipment. Private enterprise, as represented by manufacturers of such products, could contribute typical approved examples to an exhibition space in these information centers.

III. HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENTS

APPLYING ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY TO HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Secretary Weaver, in explaining the aims of section 106, said the proposed amendment recognizes the importance of a program designed specifically (1) to reduce home construction costs through the appli-