

carry out its renewal program and put to effective and lasting use the taxpayers' funds invested in this program.

There is no sense in selecting as a demonstration city a community which hasn't yet tried to help itself and do what it can about its problems. Such a city would not possess the skills, the trained personnel and the know-how to make a success of its assigned role as a demonstration city.

Frankly, we of Jersey City feel that such criteria will work toward our own benefit, for we have an outstanding planning and redevelopment staff which has initiated a bold and comprehensive community development program which has earned the approval and praise of Federal authorities.

Selection as a demonstration city would be of tremendous importance to Jersey City, of course, for it would permit us to accomplish in just a few years the kind of programs which our present municipal financial limitations have forced us to schedule in terms of decades or more.

In the past 3 years, we have cut the Jersey City payroll from 5,200 employees to approximately 3,800 in order to be able to maintain tax stability—while simultaneously expanding our community renewal program and increasing the salaries of many city workers to reasonable levels.

Our latest step has been the creation of a new division to carry out a sweeping housing code enforcement program.

We know what must be done in Jersey City. We know generally how to do it. But we haven't the money or the trained manpower to carry out our program as quickly as the increasing urgency of our problems demand. And we are increasingly afraid that by the time we have brought one set of problems under control, still worse problems will have arisen. By the time one residential section is brought up to code standards, two or three more may have slipped to far toward being slums. Time is our enemy, as it is the enemy of all old cities.

The second comment we offer regarding the demonstration cities proposal is in support of having a Federal coordinator in each city to oversee the Federal program there. We are strongly in favor of effective coordination of all the Federal programs that will be involved in a project of this magnitude. We clearly see the need for a Federal coordinator with appropriate authority reporting directly to the regional administrator of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. We don't fear a Federal "czar."

But we also urge that this Federal coordinator should be on tap, not just on top. His function should be examined closely, for it would be a tragedy if the demonstration cities program were to become bogged down in administrative paper shuffling and bureaucratic buckpassing.

The counterpart to the Federal coordinator would be the city's local coordinator, reporting directly to the mayor and the governing body.

Just as the Federal coordinator would help to mobilize all the existing Federal programs and agencies available, so would the local coordinator mobilize all the municipal and community resources on hand in the fight to renew the community.