

enthusiastically endorsed the idea of the demonstration cities program. There has been strong cooperation between my administration and many of the private groups which have sponsored unassisted improvement programs. Among these groups who have demonstrated their willingness to join in the fight for a better city are the Hoboken Chamber of Commerce, the Council of Churches, Stevens Institute, and the Port of New York Authority.

This brings me to commenting on the provisions of the proposed Demonstration Cities Act.

I would like to join with those who would avoid a national competition that would raise hopes falsely and thereby increase the bitterness of disappointment. In supporting the allocation of grants on a first-come, first-served basis, knowing the urgent need for a comprehensive program of this type among many other cities of our size, I would hope that the successful demonstration made by the original cities chosen would lead to the continuation of techniques which cut the heart of the matter.

An important corollary to this approach is that funds should not be directed from other programs to pay for the demonstration cities program. The need for renewing our cities is so pressing that nothing should be done to slow down the momentum which cities have achieved even under the present aids. By the same token, the \$2.9 billion title I funds authorized by Congress for urban renewal should be released immediately, rather than spread out over the next 4 years. The fact that there are now funds for rebuilding public utilities in the Housing Act of 1965 merely adds to the necessity for this.

With regard to planning funds, we feel that planning is less of a problem in smaller cities than in larger ones. We have been able to afford the money needed for planning our projects. Raising funds needed for implementation remains our most pressing problem. It is also a problem in smaller communities, where all governmental activities make news, to avoid overplanning and underimplementing. The public tends to become discouraged by this.

Nevertheless, I believe that all cities should be encouraged to participate in the planning phase of the program. Those who are ready sooner will be able to proceed with implementation sooner. Meanwhile, this effort should release many new and important ideas.

In administering the program, we feel that other small cities will join us in welcoming the provision of a Federal coordinator. We have received valuable technical assistance from HHFA in the past, and anticipate the continuation of cordial relations with the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the future. Provision of a Federal coordinator would furnish an additional valuable resource in coordinating information and procedures outside our boundaries.

The Demonstration Cities Act, Mr. Chairman, seems to have been framed with our situation specifically in mind. Yet, because we recognize our own problems in so many other cities, we know that it answers long-felt needs in many places. We would like to state our conviction that smaller cities, as well as larger ones, must be included as demonstration cities. As manageable models, they can show greater results with smaller infusions of assistance. The solutions are a matter of scale. Like other controlled experimental situations, the results