

**STATEMENT OF HON. PHILLIP S. HUGHES, DEPUTY DIRECTOR,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET**

Mr. HUGHES. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I am pleased to present the views of the Bureau of the Budget on Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1968, providing for certain reorganizations relating to District of Columbia recreation functions.

This reorganization plan derives from a recognized need to provide the District of Columbia Commissioner with the necessary tools to effectively manage District affairs.

When Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1967 was under consideration by the Congress, the question was raised repeatedly as to why provisions were not made for the transfer to the new Commissioner of a variety of municipal functions that were not then vested in the Board of Commissioners. Those functions were not included in that plan because it was first necessary to create the basic organizational environment to assure their more effective management. Given the basic problems with the commission form of municipal government which Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1967 was trying to correct, too early transfer of these other functions could have been harmful, rather than helpful. Since the basic format of the District government now has been changed, and since Mayor Washington has the internal restructuring of the District government well underway, it is time to deal with these other functions.

As President Johnson indicated in his 1967 message on the National Capital: "As these changes are made," he said, "it will be possible to effect further improvements, both in the structure of the District government and in its relationship to other agencies serving the Nation's Capital."

In keeping with the President's statement, Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1968 transfers a significant municipal function to the Mayor.

The District of Columbia Recreation Board is something of an organizational curiosity. It is funded by the District government, and its employees are employees of the District government. Yet all policy and management functions are vested in the Board or in its appointee, the Superintendent of Recreation, who has certain powers vested directly in him, particularly with respect to personnel appointments and program supervision. The Board itself includes representatives of the Board of Education and the District of Columbia government, the Superintendent of National Capital Parks, and four citizen members appointed for 4-year terms by the Mayor.

The Mayor and District of Columbia Council have, in fact, little direct control over the development and implementation of recreation programs in the District. The integration of recreation with schools, with youth programs, with employment programs, with programs for the elderly, with housing and urban development programs are matters of separate negotiation between the Recreation Board and other District government entities. Present arrangements do not represent a coherently conceived and directed program.

The Recreation Board has the function of developing and conducting a comprehensive recreation program for the District of Columbia. Recreation programs are conducted in parks, playgrounds,