

that the distinguished chairman is never too busy to be present. As far as I can recollect, and I am sure I am correct in my recollection, the chairman has never been too busy to be at any single reorganization plan hearing, whatever it may be—large, intermediate, or small—to personally listen to the testimony and to observe the procedure. We appreciate it very much, Mr. Chairman. On my left, are there any other questions?

Mr. BROWN. Yes.

Mr. BLATNIK. Mr. Brown.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. Commissioner, I seem to feel from listening to this colloquy between you and my colleague, Mr. Erlenborn, that you both agree on the value of broad representation in the preparation of the recreation program, but the only area of disagreement is whether or not this should be specifically written into the reorganization plan, is that correct?

Commissioner WASHINGTON. I do not know that I disagreed with it. I did not think that it was necessarily a factor that I thought was significant. I thought that what we were talking about was trying to get administrative machinery within the boundary, or umbrella of our total government so that the matter of representation and mechanism for citizens' participation could then be worked out. I think we may have difference of opinion on this, but I was not in debate.

Mr. BROWN. Well, my question is, Do you think this should have been or should be written into the reorganization plan?

Commissioner WASHINGTON. I do not think it is necessary. I think the plan in its present form is adequate.

Mr. BROWN. Well, now what about the next Commissioner? If we have someone who is not as dedicated either to recreation or to citizens' participation, what protection do we—do the citizens of the community have who are interested in citizen participation in the planning of recreation programs?

Commissioner WASHINGTON. Well, I think the Council certainly could be a part of the machinery as it is worked out. Their involvement in the budget and the whole budget process, which is a very substantial and controlling element, will have a great deal of bearing on what we do and how we move this.

Mr. BROWN. But not by regulation, just by tradition.

Commissioner WASHINGTON. Well, the control over the budget process is rather substantial, it seems to me.

Mr. BROWN. I am talking really about the citizen participation in the advisory committee to the Recreation Board; in other words, the growth of this program from the ground up.

Commissioner WASHINGTON. Well, my only reaction to that, Mr. Congressman, is along the lines I have indicated. I think it is basically administrative machinery that we are talking about here. And I think that under the present legislation it could well be handled. The extent to which—

Mr. BROWN. Well, but it could also well be ignored or avoided, could it not?

Mr. HUGHES. I do not see how it could, Mr. Brown, if you would not mind. The Council is a standing body which will be concerned with regulations in what I would consider the more fundamental sense. It also is concerned on a continuing basis with the planning,