

Board's functions of adopting, prescribing, amending, and repealing by-laws, rules, and regulations for the exercise of RLA powers or governing the manner in which its business is conducted. Provision is made in the plan for the delegation of the rulemaking functions to the Board.

Reorganization Plan No. 4 thus would bring the District's urban renewal program under the more effective control of the Mayor. As a result, the urban renewal activities of RLA could be woven into the fabric of related community improvement programs of the District while leaving its corporate status intact.

As one looks at the evolution of urban renewal from a simple slum clearance approach to a program involving housing rehabilitation, code enforcement, strategic spot demolition and increasing social awareness, the need for closely coordinating urban renewal with other municipal functions has become overwhelmingly apparent. Now, with the advent of the model cities program, we see urban renewal as the base for a wide panoply of programs directed at renewing—not just the brick and mortar—but the institutions, the human beings, the ways of life in large sections of the city.

The District of Columbia is one of the cities selected to carry out a model cities project—in the Shaw area. Under the best circumstances organizationally, this would be a complex and exceedingly difficult enterprise. It means meshing together, not only the components of physical renewal—code enforcement, public works, and the like, now split between RLA and other agencies—but welfare and employment programs and other municipal services. Without adequate controls over urban renewal operations and the ability to integrate them with these other project activities, the chances for a successful model cities program in the District could be drastically lessened.

The new District leadership has demonstrated the will and the capacity to improve the government of the District. Now, Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1968 will make possible the more effective management of a vital segment of District affairs.

There will be, I am sure, plans advanced for bringing other municipal functions now vested in agencies outside of the District government more closely within its control. In the meantime, the plan before you—along with the recent designation, by Executive Order No. 11401, of the Mayor as the National Capital Housing Authority—represents a significant beginning in developing a well-coordinated program for improving District neighborhoods. I urge the Congress therefore, to permit this plan to take effect.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BLATNIK. Thank you, Mr. Hughes.

Commissioner Washington, do you have a statement?

Commissioner WASHINGTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. BLATNIK. Will you please proceed.

#### **STATEMENT OF HON. WALTER E. WASHINGTON, COMMISSIONER OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Commissioner WASHINGTON. Yes, sir. I will be brief. I think Mr. Hughes has covered many of the essentials, and my statement will, therefore, serve to endorse Reorganization Plan No. 4.

As the President noted in his message to Congress of March 13, 1968, accompanying this reorganization plan, the function of urban