

Mr. SEGAL. Our task force is meeting with the Mayor actually this noon. We are going to discuss this kind of proposal that you suggest.

Mr. ERLNBORN. Well, I note that at the present time the District of Columbia Recreation Board is rather broadly representative of the various groups in the District and has the power to make rules and regulations. The District Council for present municipal functions is broadly representative of the residents of the District and has the power of making rules and regulations. I wonder what is the rationale of putting the rule and regulation-making power for recreation in the Commissioner and not having a public forum so to speak for establishing rules and regulations and policies. You do it through the District government. You have already done it in the past through the Recreation Department. Now, we are concentrating the rule and regulation power in the Commissioner and not having this by law at least—there may be by agreement some policy committee, but by law you will not have any group broadly representative of the residents of the District with the power to make rules and regulations.

Mr. THOMAS. This is true, and this is, I think, in essence, what the reorganization plan is all about. In essence, it is to give the Mayor-Commissioner the authority to issue directives, so to speak, consonant with his new powers. Whereas now, the Board, on occasion, would have to meet perhaps with the Board of Education or with the National Park Service, and there is a time gap between a proposal and its effective operation, or before it could be put into effect. But here, if this plan goes into effect, the Mayor will, because of his own authority, be able to immediately coordinate and facilitate the operations—recreation operations—between the Board of Education, between the National Park Service and any other recreational facilities that might exist without going through the cumbersome procedure of awaiting a Board decision.

Mr. ERLNBORN. Well, maybe my question would be clearer if I would put it this way. For what reason do you believe the District Council is left out of this picture? Apparently, the only authority they will have, since the authority under the law is to be concentrated in the Commissioner, will be over the budget. Other than this, however, the power to formulate policy will bypass the Council, the group that is broadly representative of the residents of the District.

Mr. THOMAS. Well, I do not know that I could speak too much to the advisability of the division of authority here between the Council and the Mayor. I was under the impression that the reorganization plan itself outlines the proper division of authority in the new—

Mr. ERLNBORN. I do not see any mention of the Council at all in the reorganization plan. It seems to take all of the powers of the present Board and concentrate them in the Mayor-Commissioner.

Mr. THOMAS. I meant the original reorganization plan that formed the Council and set up the Mayor and the City Council. I was under the impression that that plan delineated the authority of the Mayor and the Council, and this would fit into that—

Mr. ERLNBORN. As to the functions being transferred in that plan, yes, but here the plan specifically puts the functions in the Mayor-Commissioner without any reference to the Council.

I think Mr. Hughes wants to comment on this.