

Mr. HUGHES. I think the key point, Mr. Erlenborn, is with respect to the kind of functions we are talking about. Obviously, the District of Columbia Council's quasi-legislative responsibilities are vested in the Council by the previous plan and would remain there. What we are talking about here are essentially administrative authorities of the sort that I think we would generally agree any administrator should have. The budget control which the Council has is the key program control in many respects. We did consider the question of whether some of these regulations were significant and sufficiently of a policy nature to warrant placing them in the Council, but it seemed to us quite clear that they were of a routine and administrative character like, for instance, entering into agreements by which facilities are made available, prescribing rules and regulations governing the payment of night differential, providing by agreement for the maintenance and improvement of playground and recreation areas and facilities—all of these within the general framework of the statutes that are applicable to the District and also within the general framework of those quasi-legislative responsibilities which the District of Columbia Council already has.

So I think Mr. Thomas put it properly when he said the heart of the plan is to place in the Mayor-Commissioner administrative responsibilities which, at least as we see it, are well within the normal compass of administration of a city government.

Mr. ERLNBORN. It has just been called to my attention that plan No. 3 of last year that established our new District government gave to the Council such rulemaking powers as the making of rules and regulations for the management of a public convenience station and financing charges for the use of such station, and other things of that sort.

My question really is this. What will the overall policy be as to the type of recreation program that there is going to be and where the services will be concentrated. Will we continue to have better facilities in Northwest Washington to the detriment of Southeast or Northeast? These questions have been decided up till now by the District of Columbia Recreation Board. The Board was established in a way that gave representation to, I think, elements that should be considered, the Board of Education, park, District, civic groups and so forth. Now, with the abolition of this Board, this power is being transferred to the Commissioner without reference to the Council, and unless the nonlegal Advisory Board is established to help the Commissioner make these decisions—and there is no requirement that he do that in this plan—then you are not going to have any group broadly representative of the various interests in the District of Columbia making these decisions. And as a matter of fact, even if the Mayor does appoint an advisory group, it will be nothing more than that, just advisory.

Mr. HUGHES. But, Mr. Erlenborn, the question, for instance, of the location of recreational facilities is the heart of the planning process that goes into the preparation of the budget, and the Council must be directly and intimately involved in these kinds of decisions. These are important decisions. The Mayor and the Council under the terms of the previous plan share them in a fashion spelled out there.

Mr. ERLNBORN. Well, as I recollect, the Council does not establish the budget.