

programs, mass transit, open space, and so forth. Consequently, the Nation's 3,000 counties are experiencing new surges of life. Opening up Federal and technical assistance to these local governments, coupled with the extensive provision of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act which passed the Senate last year, will do much to assure continued progress at the county level in these vital areas.

We wish to emphasize particularly the vital necessity of title IV of this bill, providing for coordinated intergovernmental administration of grants for urban development. For years the Federal Government, by impact of certain grant-in-aid programs, has been hindering the development of viable, responsible, general-purpose, local government. We refer to the large amounts of Federal moneys which are not channeled through the units of general local government, but rather through private individuals or special-purpose units. This, in many cases, further fragments local government's ability to coordinate the impact of Federal assistance. A Federal policy minimizing this practice to the greatest extent practicable would go a long way in developing the capacity of general-purpose units of government to exercise responsibility for public needs.

Sections 401 and 402 are vital if we are to discontinue the errors of the past. Prince Georges County has made a great effort in time, energy, money, and yes, in heart, to study in depth, our housing problems and the needs of our underprivileged citizens. We know what we must do, we know what we must have built, we know where we should encourage such building projects, and we are making a real effort to solve the problems utilizing both public and private capital.

But, and this "but" is an enormous but, developers are being granted financing by the Federal Government in very, very large sums to build 221(d)(3) low- and middle-income projects in our county, not where they would help us, but in many instances where they may do considerable harm. Instead of placing a little of this housing here, another project there, fitting them into the community so that they do not downgrade their surroundings, but instead serve to upgrade their old tenants, we find huge developments about to be built in such a manner that we can predict that they will become the tenement slums of tomorrow. All our planning, all of our know-how, all of our hopes for the future are just being set aside.

For the Acting Director of the FHA, a most cooperative gentleman, sees and understands our problems. But he knows that we have good intentions and that we have been working to carry them out, and he has made every attempt to cooperate to the best of his agency's ability, but Congress neglected to insert one important factor in its enabling legislation for these housing programs. It neglected to allow the local government a voice in determining, first, how much low-income housing it needs, the size of the projects to be built, and their placement for maximum benefit and minimum adverse effects. And so you see, it is ironic that on the one hand, Congress, through the model cities program, encouraged us to take a comprehensive approach to our problems, but on the other hand, Congress did not permit a Federal agency to respect our local government's attempt to utilize the comprehensive approach.

Section 401 recognizes the need for cranking the local government into the decisionmaking process, and it will greatly assist our counties