

*Title IV.*—Our Association is in support of the objectives of title IV which provide that important urban development programs, including those programs most related to urban growth (such as open space land, hospitals, libraries, airports, water and sewer facilities, land conservation, and other important public works) will be effectively related to local programs and comprehensive urban planning. This title is complementary to the planning assistance programs currently before the Congress and in S. 3029, the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968. The provisions under title VI of S. 3029 provide for extending planning assistance into urbanized districts. Certainly, both of these are important steps toward a correction of urban sprawl and toward the development of well-balanced communities in total metropolitan settings.

*Title V.*—NAHRO supports the concept that there should be a systematic review of federally-assisted programs by the Congress, with the view of updating these grant-in-aid programs, eliminating duplication and making them more effective. At the same time, we would like to make one specific suggestion. Under section 503, we suggest that in the studies of grant-in-aid programs, conducted by the substantive committees in the Senate and the House, specific indication be given in the statute that these studies will include consultation *with* and recommendations *by* state and local agencies which are the recipients of this assistance.

*Title VI.*—This title of S. 698 and S. 2981, the Joint Funding and Simplification Act, both address themselves to the important question of how the present extensive number of grant-in-aid programs can be consolidated and better administered. We recognize the need and applaud this objective. In approaching this question, we recognize, that the Department of Housing and Urban Development already has important powers, under the direction of the President, to coordinate federal activities affecting housing and urban development. We see the present bills before the subcommittee as further extending these powers, under the President's direction. We also recognize that there will be a period of adjustment to any new administrative arrangement at federal, state, and local levels. In fact, we see S. 2981 as an important bill in that it would provide an "interim method" to move into better coordination, without the necessity to jump to the *full consolidation* of grant-in-aid programs which is indicated in title VI. At the same time, we would support the title VI provision to accommodate those programs and areas which are ready to move to a full consolidation. We would suggest a possible alteration in language in connection with *section 702(a)(1)*—it may be too restrictive to expect that all consolidation can take place in a *single* agency. It may be appropriate and necessary in some instances to recognize that joint administration by more than one agency is the best administrative solution. The subcommittee may wish to consider some easing of this requirement.

Mr. Chairman, as we approve the efforts at the federal level to provide for a more coordinated approach to the administration of federally-assisted programs, we recognize that there is a complementary development in the coordination of urban development programs at the local level. While the Association is not prepared at this time to spell out in full how we see the intermeshing of consolidated grant programs at the federal and state levels with the administration at the local level, it is our intention to use the instrument of the proposed Intergovernmental Cooperation Act as a basis to explore this relationship. It is our hope that this can be accomplished within the basic understanding that the responsibility and initiative for these programs resides at the local level.

*Title VII.*—NAHRO supports this title which would provide for giving reasonable notice to general local governments of the Federal government's intent to acquire, use or dispose of land. There have been instances in the past where the failure to work cooperatively in such matters has perpetuated land uses inconsistent with local efforts to carry out comprehensive planning. This Title is an important tool to prevent such occurrences.

*Title VIII.*—NAHRO reaffirms its strong support for uniform relocation assistance and the objectives of title VIII of this bill. We make this statement based on the direct experience of the local relocation personnel who are members of our Association and charged with the day-to-day operation of relocation assistance programs covering urban renewal, public housing and housing codes enforcement, as well as the growing number of centralized local relocation operations covering all public displacement activity. Their experience clearly indicates a strong need to make uniform payments and assistance