

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION ACT OF 1967 AND RELATED LEGISLATION

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 1968

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to recess, at 9:50 a.m., in room 5302, New State Office Building, Senator Edmund S. Muskie (chairman) presiding.

Present: Senators Muskie and Baker.

Staff members present: Charles M. Smith, staff director; E. Winslow Turner, general counsel; Robert E. Berry, minority counsel; and Lucinda T. Dennis, administrative secretary.

Senator MUSKIE. This committee will be in order.

We are meeting this morning to continue our hearings on S. 698, the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act and related legislation. We are focusing particularly on title VIII of this bill, which deals with the displacement and relocation of people and businesses and projects that are financed in whole or in part with Federal funds.

This legislation would establish the rule in all Federal or federally assisted programs but property may not be taken until there is assurance of available standard housing for those displaced. Also it provides for uniform relocation payments and services for those who must move their homes and businesses.

Compliance with these requirements will be a condition for Federal grants to State and local governments to undertake such projects.

We have taken testimony on this bill in the administration from representatives of State and local government, and from various private organizations.

Today we are taking testimony from those who can tell us first hand the effects of these public projects on the life of those living in the affected areas. These are the people who must give up their homes and businesses at the sake of benefits to the community as a whole.

We are looking for ways to reduce the sacrifices they must make and help them achieve new and, hopefully, better ways of life as a result of this experience.

This subcommittee can give no final answers today. The legislation before use has a long way to go before it becomes law.

It is the task of the subcommittee to hear your testimony and to give it full consideration as we prepare this bill for action by the Senate.

I can assure you that this will be done.