

I am a member of the national board of trustees and former president of the Urban League of Pittsburgh. As you undoubtedly know, the league has been operating for some 58 years to secure equal opportunity for Negro citizens and other minorities. It is nonpartisan and interracial in both its leadership and staff.

The national office is New York, and Whitney Young, I suppose, is our No. 1 product as our executive director.

We have a trained professional staff operating in day-to-day activities in using the techniques and disciplines of social work in performing services of the league. The professional staff numbers more than 800 employees whose operations are reinforced by some 8,000 volunteers who apply expert knowledge and experience to the resolution of racial problems and racial relations.

I am among the 8,000 volunteers with much experience, but little expert knowledge.

The proposed legislation which you have introduced will insure the fullest cooperation and coordination of activities between levels of the government in order to improve the operation of our federal system. At the time this legislation was introduced in the first session of the 90th Congress, there were some 220 Federal grants-in-aid designed to assist the State and local governments. These were administered by 16 departments and agencies of the Federal Government. It should be noted that more than 75 of these 220 grant-in-aid programs have been enacted since 1961.

There are obvious problems and there will be obvious problems for those responsible for the administration, and also for those the programs are designed to serve.

The consolidation of programs as proposed in title VI seems to us to be one of the ways, or one of the approaches, which will solve some of these problems. In any single area of concern, there are so many different programs that the average citizen soon becomes lost in the Federal maze, and is thereby deprived of the right of supporting services.

But, more importantly, he loses confidence in the institutions of government, and I think this is what we are seeing throughout the country today. For example, in the manpower field alone, there were some 57 programs for vocational and job training last year. In Pittsburgh, there are so many programs for job training we really do not know where we can find the people to be trained or where we can put them, or which office they should go to.

The unsophisticated, poorly educated jobseeker is expected to become, overnight, educated and sophisticated and select the plan that best suits his experience and needs. Today, because of the time limitations and because of the interest of the Urban League, I would like to talk most of all about title VIII, which deals primarily with uniform relocation assistance.

This title deals forthrightly with the problems which have been of primary concern to the National Urban League for a long time, and indeed, still confront us today on a daily basis.

The establishment of a uniform policy for the "fair and equitable treatment of owners, tenants, and other persons displaced by the acquisition of real property in Federal and federally assisted programs" would be one of the greatest services this body could render to the rank and file of American citizenry.