

Senator Hansen, would you like to inquire?

Senator HANSEN. I have no questions.

Mr. MIZE. Thank you very much.

Senator MUSKIE. The next witness is Secretary Robert C. Weaver, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

We are pleased to welcome you, Mr. Secretary.

May I apologize to you also for being late.

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT C. WEAVER, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; ACCOMPANIED BY H. RALPH TAYLOR, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR DEMONSTRATIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, ASHLEY A. FOARD, DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL, AND JOHN FRANTZ, BUDGET OFFICER

Secretary WEAVER. I am pleased to appear before you today to present the Department's views on the proposed Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1967—S. 698—and several related measures. We welcome the continuing exploration of the problems of federalism and the role of the Government in dealing with the problems of an urban society.

It is appropriate that the legislative proposals contained in this omnibus bill focus not on Washington alone, but also on the State, regional, and local levels of government. A complex and decentralized system of government, an exploding urbanization process, rising expectations, and advances in technology mean that there can be no ultimate or unchanging solutions to how government conducts its business.

We endorse the general objectives proposed in this act—

more uniform administration of Federal grants to State governments;

extending reimbursable technical assistance services to both State and local governments;

supporting rather than bypassing the local general-purpose governments of the country, where ultimately all public and private services must be coordinated and delivered;

continuing congressional review of Federal grant-in-aid programs to assure their relevance and adequacy in meeting national needs;

simplifying and consolidating grant-in-aid programs where greater effectiveness can be achieved thereby;

more uniform and expeditious Federal practices with respect to the acquisition, use, and disposition of urban land, including consistency, to the extent possible, with local planning goals, and

more equitable and uniform Federal relocation policy to minimize the possibility of hardship among the people and businesses displaced by Federal and federally-aided programs.

It should be emphasized that none of these objectives designed to support strong and capable governments are meaningful unless they have the effect of bringing public resources to bear in making our urban places worthy of the people who live in them. Neat and orderly administration is a mockery unless it assists the people of urban