

Secretary WEAVER. We have in the statute and in our regulations now in practice a relocation policy and program. I think we are somewhat unique in this, in that we first require, as soon as that project gets into planning—and this is a new requirement—that there be established a center whereby the people who are going to be displaced are informed first of what their rights are under the law—and the law requires that they have access to safe, decent, and sanitary housing; secondly, that this center will give them assistance in finding such housing.

Then we require that the city come up first with a plan for relocation and secondly, we check on the performance of this—not as minutely as we would like, but within the limitation of what personnel we have. If there are complaints either by individuals, by community groups, or others, we then move into the city and work with the local people in order to correct the problems. In instances, I have actually stopped the carrying out of projects because the relocation was inadequate.

But we do have these requirements and we are enforcing them, I think, to a much higher degree than before. I would say that certainly eight out of 10 of the people who are displaced by urban renewal do move into safe, decent, and sanitary housing and we know where they are.

Now, there are a certain number who move out before we can get to them. That number is being reduced. Those we do not know, but we do go back and try to find them. Often, these are people who do not have local roots, and it is awfully hard to find them once they have gotten away. But this is what we do.

Senator HANSEN. What is the situation with regard to rights-of-way for highway building? Does the Department of Transportation evidence a like concern and interest in adequate, suitable housing for those persons who will be displaced by the highway construction program?

Secretary WEAVER. Well, let me say that Secretary Boyd, I think, certainly this is his concern. However, his legislation is not as effective as is our legislation.

As I understand the situation, and the Deputy General Counsel will have to check me, the highway law does not require relocation. It simply says that Federal funds can be used for relocation. So this leaves it up to the States to determine whether or not and to what degree it is going to be done. This is not uniform, nor are their provisions as high as ours. But more important, it is not uniform and it is left up to a group which sometimes is more concerned with getting from here to there than what happens in the process.

Senator HANSEN. Thank you.

Senator MUSKIE. I have a number of questions which we would like to submit. Several could lead to extended discussion, but I am afraid we just do not have the time, so I shall submit them.

I shall confine myself to one final question. I see you have John Frantz with you. I would like to have him testify on one point. This is the proposal by the administration to provide authority to the Federal departments and agencies to enter into agreements among themselves for the joint handling of various Federal aids related to a single local project. In a letter of March 27 to the chairman of the full