

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.,
 Washington, D.C., June 12, 1968.

Hon. EDMUND S. MUSKIE,
 Senate Office Building,
 Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MUSKIE: We are pleased that your Committee on Government Operations is considering S. 698 which will establish a uniform relocation assistance policy, as well as other matters.

The necessity of such a policy is well established in that the various Federal programs have differing provisions regarding the relocation of people affected by their projects. Contact with church units throughout the country serving the people who have been affected by these programs impresses upon us the great importance of adequate and uniform relocation service.

Let me elaborate on what we mean by uniform relocation service: that each family or individual be treated the same for relocation regardless of the program which necessitates their relocation. The fact that a person has to relocate is the prime fact, and not the particular program which creates the problem. Congress in its wisdom may vary the financial or supervisory relationship the Federal Government has with various programs of highway building, public housing, or urban redevelopment. This variance however, should not extend to the treatment of the citizen.

We therefore urge that your bill contain provisions that—

1. provide funds uniformly to the persons and individuals involved and to the agency administering the relocation program;
2. insure that adequate funds are so provided—it seems that the provision of the first \$25,000 of the cost of relocation contained in section 807(b) should be adequate in most cases.

Again, we emphasize the importance of this legislation. The process by which our cities are renewed is at least as important as the program of renewal. We trust that this legislation will focus on providing both uniform and adequate assistance to the citizen regardless of the variations between the Federal Government and the particular programs.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES A. HAMILTON, *Director.*

NATIONAL GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE,
 Washington, D.C., June 7, 1968.

Hon. EDMUND S. MUSKIE,
 Chairman, Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations, Committee on Government Operations, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MUSKIE: In testimony by the National Governors' Conference before your Subcommittee on the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, it was indicated that the Governors and the states are vitally concerned with the problems created by the action of federal, state, and local governments, which displace persons and businesses. Specifically, we are concerned about the role of the states in relocation assistance.

As was pointed out in our letter to you dated May 21, 1968, the states have begun to assume a more aggressive role in relocation efforts. While many states are meeting their responsibility for coordinating relocation efforts, we feel that a commitment from the federal government is needed if uniformity is to be realized in the near future. Title VIII of S. 698 providing for relocation payments of up to \$25,000 in federally-aided programs is a logical first step in achieving a uniform policy of relocation assistance. The federal relocation payment would be contingent, of course, on the state or local agency's agreeing to provide assistance payments as prescribed by federal law.

In addition, however, serious consideration should be given to creating programs which would bring the states more fully into the relocation programs. Many state officials, for example, favor federal matching funds to the states to provide for a statewide relocation effort as complementing the provisions in title VIII of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (S. 698).

We trust that you will find these additional comments helpful. If we can provide you with further information, however, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

CHARLES A. BYRLEY,
 Director, Office of Federal-State Relations.