

repayment under programs handled by different Federal agencies. "Shopping around" for the maximum amount of aid seemed undesirable to league members because (a) it encourages delay in solving the problem for which Federal aid is sought and (b) it encourages choosing the solution for which most financial aid can be obtained. League members became convinced that variations in the amount of aid which can be offered under different programs distorted decisionmaking, reduced maximum benefits from the Federal investment, and are one factor in heightened interagency competition.

In recent years we have seen some tendency to limit Federal aid to 50 percent in a number of water programs, except where supplementation was provided for areas of great economic distress. Housing and Urban Development Act authorized public water and sewer facilities. For rural communities, the Rural Water and Sanitations Facilities Act offered up to 50 percent of construction, land easement, rights-of-way, and water rights costs necessary for construction and operation of rural water supply and sanitation systems. The Public Works and Economic Development Act also authorized 50-percent aid for needed public works in economically distressed areas, plus supplementation.

The league would like to see this 50-percent line held as demonstration and pilot operations move into full national programs.

I think that is the gist of what we wish to say to you today, and we do appreciate the opportunity to do it and the leadership of this committee.

If there is anything that you would like for me to respond to, I would be glad to do so.

Mr. BLATNIK. I would like to compliment you and your staff of associates working with you for a very orderly and logical statement and the very fine manner of presentation you made this morning.

You submit several recommendations on behalf of the League of Women Voters of the United States. I am also frankly relieved that you do not attempt to know all the answers and as arbitrary as some witnesses have been, with all respect to their deep conviction and sincerity.

In addition to recommendations you call attention to certain areas where you are not taking particular decision one way or the other. But you do suggest they require more study by the staff.

You raise some very thoughtful and very legitimate questions that ought to be looked into a little more thoroughly by the staff which we intend to do before we come up with the final judgment and have it written into legislative language.

I do not have any further questions. Any questions from members of the committee, any comments?

Mr. Clausen.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Once again I want to welcome my almost namesake before this committee. I think that she has misspelled her name. And I am saying that facetiously?

But once again, Mrs. Clusen, you have given to the committee a clear demonstration of your independent thinking on behalf of the League of Women Voters. I am assuming that all of these recommendations have been filtered up upon the study groups that the league has around the country.