

In this regard the Committee may also be interested to know that just last week the Comptroller General, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of the Bureau of the Budget agreed to launch, under the auspices of the joint financial management improvement program, an interagency study in this area. We recommend deferral of legislative action on this title of the bill pending completion of the interagency study.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I simply reiterate that the Bureau of the Budget believes the objectives of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act are most meritorious and will make a positive contribution to a stronger and more effective American federalism.

TITLE VIII—UNIFORM RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

Title VIII of the bill would establish a uniform policy for the fair and equitable treatment of owners, tenants, and other persons displaced by the acquisition of real property by Federal and federally assisted programs or by related activity in public improvement programs. Title VIII states that this policy would be as uniform as practicable as to (1) relocation payments, (2) advisory assistance, (3) assurance of availability of standard housing, and (4) Federal reimbursement for relocation payments under federally assisted programs.

The House Public Works Committee's Select Subcommittee on Real Property Acquisition issued a staff report in 1965 which clearly documents the case that the Federal, State and local governments are falling far short of equity in treatment of those displaced by governmental programs. The Bureau of the Budget favors enactment of legislation which would minimize inequities which exist when land is acquired for use in a Federal or federally assisted program.

Generally, Title VIII would establish a workable, uniform system for fair and equitable treatment of individuals displaced by acquisition of real property in Federal and federally assisted programs. However, in an effort to improve the bill, we have a number of recommendations and also offer some technical suggestions.

Section 802(b) provides that under certain circumstances, a displaced person who moves or discontinues his business may elect to accept an optional payment of up to \$5,000. We understand that the intent of this optional payment is to cover both (1) the cost of moving and (2) a readjustment allowance payment to assist small businesses in making up for the economic impact of displacement. If this is in fact the intent, we recommend that Section 802(b) be revised to treat these two purposes more clearly by providing for two separate payments; one for actual moving expenses and one for economic readjustment. Accordingly, Section 802(b) should be amended as follows: Delete the first sentence in Section 802(b) beginning on line 19, page 33 "If" and ending on line 2, page 34 with "lesser." Substitute the following for this sentence: "In addition to the payment authorized by Subsection (a) of this section an additional payment is authorized for any displaced person who moves or discontinues his business provided the average annual net earnings of the business are less than \$10,000 per year. This payment shall be in an amount equal to the average annual net earnings of the business or \$2,500, whichever is the lesser."

Section 802(c)(3) provides that should a displaced person who moves from a dwelling select an optional payment in lieu of reimbursement for fair and reasonable expenses as provided by 802(a), he would receive \$300 in addition to the allowances provided by 802(c)(1) and 802(c)(2) if he purchases a dwelling for purpose of residence within one year from the date of actual displacement. This payment would be made only if the displaced person selects the optional payment. We would like to invite the Committee's consideration of whether or not this payment should also be made to a displaced person who elects to receive fair and reasonable relocation payments as provided by Section 802(a).

The provisions of Title VIII fail to recognize the problem of the owner-occupant of real property which is acquired, but for which the fair market value paid is not sufficient to enable the previous owner to obtain a decent, safe and sanitary dwelling adequate in size to meet his needs. This most frequently occurs as a result of the private market no longer producing a significant volume of new housing in the price ranges comparable to that being acquired under Federal and federally-assisted programs. Accordingly, we invite the Committee's consideration of the following amendment to be inserted as subsection 802(f), with the present subsection (f) redesignated (g).

"(f) (1) In addition to amounts otherwise authorized, the head of such Federal agency may make a payment to the owner of real property which is acquired for