

Mr. CRAMER. Whatever the amount is.

Mr. RHYNER. It isn't our suggestion as to the amount. Let me say that we think that the TOPICS program is a good worthwhile program.

It would obviously have to come out of the interstate money and in weighing priorities, I would think that you would have to give priority to the interstate and the ABC program, even though I think TOPICS is very desirable.

Mr. CRAMER. In other words, to make sure I understand your recommendation, it is that if there is no added money made available for TOPICS, that your position would be to go ahead and make TOPICS a permissible to those States that want to spend some of their allocation for that purpose and those States that do not, would not have to expend that apportionment for that \$250 million program if they didn't want to.

Mr. RHYNER. Yes, sir.

Mr. CRAMER. Now on relocation assistance, we are all looking for guidance relating to this and certainly you have had this experience and it is most helpful.

It is a very interesting concept of providing for replacement housing and for possibly moving some of these structures themselves.

Does that include State programing, public housing of some sort in addition for relocation purposes on this property acquired for relocation?

Mr. RHYNER. Let me say first, Mr. Cramer, that we are in the formative stages of a new program and I cannot be too definite today, as definite as I would like to be.

I think, however, that I can say with reasonable certainty it is our intention to contract with other governmental agencies, the redevelopment agencies, the city and county of Los Angeles, and so forth, and have them construct these redevelopment places and maintain them and operate them with the State contributing toward the cost and also contracting with the private sector to have the private sector do it again with some contribution from the State.

Mr. CLAUSEN. If the gentleman would yield, is this not basically the objective of the administration and the recommendation in AD 1072?

Mr. RHYNER. Yes. We want to get the private sector in, Mr. Clausen, as well as local governmental agencies.

Mr. CLAUSEN. So you contract with them.

Mr. RHYNER. Yes, sir.

Mr. CRAMER. I am sympathetic toward that approach obviously. Let me ask you a couple of questions relating to that.

Is it your understanding that the present law permits—that is, the Federal law, permits the Federal Government to pay a portion of the cost of the acquisition of property for the purpose of moving these relocated houses?

Mr. RHYNER. I doubt it, Mr. Cramer, although I would not want to foreclose myself from raising the point later on.

The Federal Government, as I understand, the Federal Highway Act, reimburses the State for the cost of the right-of-way. If that was put in the Federal act many years ago and at that time I do not think the definition of right-of-way contemplated this activity.

Now, definitions have changed over the course of the years and