

tive understanding of the basic needs of those of our people who now reside, or will reside, in our urban regions is fundamental to the prompt, effective, and efficient structuring of Federal and local programs addressed to meeting them.

It has been clear for some time that the Federal and local governments simply do not have available to them a sufficiently large number of sophisticated and disciplined minds capable of studying urban problems truly comprehensively, and in such a fashion as to offer prompt and confident assistance to officials responsible for formulating and administering urban-related policy. Therefore, under the direction of the President, planning is well advanced toward the establishment of an Institute of Urban Development. The Institute is visualized as a nongovernment agency, but one which would maintain continuous relationships with the Government across the areas of national policy and the programs involved in the problems of our urban regions. It would be so constituted as to be able to draw freely upon the best talent available in private enterprise, public administration, and the academic community.

As a result of very careful thought, the following areas thus far have been judged to be of such overriding importance as to warrant our greatest and most immediate R. & D. attention:

- (1) Volume production of low-cost housing.
- (2) Study of the social and behavioral problems related to the provision of housing to lower income families.
- (3) Improvement of urban mass transportation.
- (4) Development of the model cities program.
- (5) Exploitation of the Federal surplus urban land program.
- (6) Establishment of an effective information exchange network.

While there are, of course, many other urban problem areas that clearly require early study, and a substantial number of them will receive such study in 1968 and 1969, these are the ones which have been selected to receive our greatest early emphasis.

Against this general background, then, I would make a few observations directed toward the specific concerns of this hearing.

First, we have met with those responsible for the research and development activities of 14 other Federal departments and agencies—and agencies in certain cities as well—and, as might be expected, have learned that the vast majority of them do have programs with urban-related concerns. In these preliminary discussions we touched briefly on the subject of laboratories and test facilities.

Second, the limited time and staff available to date have not allowed us to proceed beyond this first step in the establishment of an inter-agency information “network” designed to ensure that the results of these programs are truly effective when examined in the context of urban needs. But this is our firm intention, and we are holding conversations with the Department of Commerce and the National Science Foundation to obtain their advice and, perhaps, assistance in this endeavor.

Third, in those areas of concern to us that have a potentially high technological content, for various reasons we have decided to concentrate, by far, the bulk of our immediate attention on that of low-cost housing. And here, we have concluded that, for the immediate