

ITEMS OF INTEREST RELATED TO HUD RAISED AT HEARINGS OF
RIBICOFF SUBCOMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE REORGANIZATION

December 5, 1966 (morning)

CONSTANTINOS DOXIADIS, President, Doxiadis Association

Mr. Doxiadis maintained that the crisis of urban society could be alleviated only through an approach based upon systematic knowledge of human settlements. The great defect of existing urban development programs according to Mr. Doxiadis is that they have an impact on a limited segment of the totality of urban existence. These efforts confined to a single area cannot produce affirmative results because the problem of mass transportation or the dilemma of the central city are integrally related to the broader patterns of human settlement. The main points raised in the testimony and during the questioning period were the following:

1. The Failure of Federal Government Programs to Solve Urban Problems.

Mr. Doxiadis stated that the public housing and urban renewal programs have not prevented a worsening of the urban situation. The demonstration cities program was described as "a small beginning in the direction of coordinated action, small in size and small as compared to the areas it must cover."

2. The Need for Avoiding Increased Pressure on Urban Areas

Mr. Doxiadis suggested that the crisis of the cities might be aggravated by a substantial increase in federal expenditures for urban development. An easing of the pressure of existing cities through the construction of new urban centers should be considered.

3. Federal Programs as a Mechanism for Acquiring Increased Knowledge of Urban Problems

Mr. Doxiadis stressed that an awareness of the interrelated character of urban problems should lead to an intensified study of social, economic, and political patterns prevailing in urban areas. He urged that government programs should be utilized to provide increased knowledge of these patterns.

4. The Preservation of Open Spaces

Mr. Doxiadis declared that the construction of public facilities in selected areas would encourage persons and businesses to locate themselves in a manner which would serve the interests of an entire urban region. The conservation of open land by the government is thus necessary to the creation of an infrastructure of public facilities which would make possible orderly urban development.

5. The Resolution of the Urban Crisis Depends Upon a Limitation of Community Autonomy

Mr. Doxiadis called for overall federal government control of the patterns of human settlement. The continuation of community autonomy with regard to its own development will produce a worsening of the urban crisis.