

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To implement some of the key recommendations in the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations Report, the Commission, which basically adopted a staff report, recommends that the state enact legislation authorizing and directing a state agency to prepare and promulgate a comprehensive model building code with a products approval procedure and permissive adoption by local subdivisions. The Commission recommends that the state legislation should specify that the local jurisdiction may not alter the model code except on specific approval of the state agency and should establish an appellate body to hear appeals from decisions of adopting local jurisdictions on the application of the code.

The matter of state building codes is a concern to municipal governments and model code organizations throughout the nation. I, personally, feel that a building code can be administered and enforced at the local level under metropolitan jurisdiction better than at the state level. Local governing bodies can amend a code consistent with new, recognized standards at semi-monthly meetings. Appeals can be considered before a local appeals board with far greater efficiency. All states do not have the same political situation; 85% of the building construction in some states is in ^{one} the metropolitan area, therefore, a metropolitan building code would be proper. In other states there are several municipalities somewhat of the same size where a state code would function properly. I, personally, feel that a metropolitan code commission is the answer to uniformity in building codes and that permissive adoption of a state code would unnecessarily create duplication and confusion with municipal codes in that the building official would be pressured to approve construction in a thriving metropolitan area based on a minimum state code considered appropriate in some rural community.

State legislatures that usually meet once a year are concerned with matters of budgets, roads, reapportionment, etc; there is little time or concern for updating a

building code at a legislative session.

* * * * *

Congrats to North Carolina BOA for a successful meeting in Gastonia and to SBCC for a successful Code Changes Meeting in B'Ham.....Our best to John Behrens of Fresno, Pres. ICBO; Fred Davis of Garden City and Joseph Bartell of Prince Georges County, new members of the BOCA Executive Board.

Hello to Norman Backman, Assistant Director of the Advisory Board, as he hails a cab in Frisco's Chinatown for pilgrimage back to Dulles and to Gene Quinlan, proverbial Mayor of Scully Square - come, let us reason together.

COPY