

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Office of the Majority Leader
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Mayor:

President Kennedy's Reorganization Plan to create a Department of Urban Affairs and Housing with cabinet status was sent to Congress January 30.

The basic reason for this new Department is that two out of every three Americans now live in urban areas.

In a few short years, as President Kennedy emphasized, we shall be a nation of vastly expanded population, living in expanded urban areas in housing that does not now exist, served by community facilities that do not now exist, moving about by means of systems of urban transportation that do not now exist.

The President's Reorganization Plan is a method of acting now to strengthen and improve the machinery through which, in a large part, the Federal Government must act to carry out its proper role of encouragement and assistance to local governments in the solution of these problems.

The established need for this Department warrants bipartisan support. This is evidenced by the declarations of Mayors and representatives of some 13,000 cities, towns and villages throughout the nation that "the problems of urbanization have outstripped the ability and capacity of local governments. Direction and coordination from the Federal level are essential if true solutions are to be secured."

So that you may further acquaint the citizens of your city with the true facts and rally their support to assist your fellow municipal officials to prevent the opposition from defeating this Plan, I am enclosing information for release to your local newspaper.

Sincerely yours,

Carl Albert