

FROM THE OFFICE OF:

CONGRESSMAN ROBERT N. GIAIMO
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 15, 1966

U. S. Representative Robert N. Giaimo voted Friday to initiate a new program that will mobilize and expand Federal efforts to aid all cities. Labeled the Demonstration Cities Program by the Administration, it won approval by the House by a vote of 178 to 141.

"For many years," Giaimo said, "I have pointed to the imbalance between our national government's concern for agriculture, as exemplified by the Department of Agriculture and its many programs, and Washington's relatively limited concern for our cities where today 80 per cent of all Americans live. Since coming to Congress in 1959, I have worked to correct this imbalance, and I am pleased that this Congress is doing something about it. We have established a Department of Housing and Urban Development on a par with the Department of Agriculture. We are beginning to work with the states and local communities to improve mass transportation facilities and end the transit jam that is growing in all urban areas. We have launched a Federal, State and city attack on air and water pollution, typical problems created by our new urban living. And now, through the Demonstration Cities Program, we are providing the instrument with which to coordinate and mobilize all these programs in a rational, effective, efficient attack on the many problems peculiar to our cities."

Under the Demonstration Cities Program, the Department of Housing and Urban Development will provide up to 80 per cent of the cost for planning, developing and administering projects planned at the local level to coordinate the implementation of already existing Federal, State and community programs in

a specified blighted area. According to Giaimo, each city government desiring to participate will establish its own demonstration agency to coordinate the program. The agency will then apply for a grant to plan the program, but it must put up at least 20 per cent of the money. When the plan is approved, the local agency will administer it.

As a member of the House Appropriations subcommittee which will be charged with developing the budgets for this program, Giaimo pointed out that he has more than an average Congressman's interest in it. "I am excited by its potential, and I intend to see that it works," he said.

"This approach provides an excellent method for harnessing the available resources . . . men, money and materials. . . on local, state and national levels to rid ourselves of slums, rats, disease, over-crowded schools, inadequate police and fire protection. It will help avoid duplication and wasted efforts. It will help bring greater efficiency to our war on all the long-neglected problems that degrade our cities and the people who live in them."

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