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## News Release #68-106

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# NEWS from Congressman CHARLES W. WHALEN, Jr.

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#68-106

June 14, 1968

FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

Congressman Charles W. Whalen, Jr. (R-Ohio) will serve as a member of a 14-man bi-partisan Congressional group which intends to develop an awareness of urban needs among Congressmen with rural constituencies.

The announcement was made today in Chicago by Pittsburgh Mayor Joseph Barr, U.S. Council of Mayors president, and Congressman John C. Culver (D-Iowa), Chairman of the new steering group.

The plan is to send small teams of Congressmen to various cities to observe first-hand the operations of mayors and city administrations.

Whalen said a pilot trip will be made on June 24 in Washington.

The Third Ohio District Congressman will be the co-chairman of the first trip to a city yet to be determined.

Observing teams will consist of between four and seven members. Eventually, as many non-urban Congressmen as may be available will be included for the two-to-three day trips.

Proposed by Culver in April, the program has the endorsement and financial support of the Ford Foundation.

Visits are planned to Chicago, Pittsburgh, Baltimore and New York.

Whalen said officials in Philadelphia, Detroit, Kansas City, San Francisco, San Diego and Atlanta have expressed interest in hosting such visits.

Besides giving rural Congressmen an insight into city problems, the visits are aimed at giving them a better appreciation of the success or failure of federal, state and local programs.

Whalen is the only Ohioan on the steering group which will work closely with the Council of Mayors to implement this program.

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