

# .Machinery for Appeal

But the proposal to abolish the Board of Standards and Appeals for a Zoning Administrator within the City Planning Department merely sidesteps what is wrong with zoning administration now. It is not the existence of an independent body to determine hardships imposed by the zoning law that is at fault, although the board's frequent misuse or misinterpretation of its power makes abolition a tempting solution. There may well be a better way of dealing with variances and hardships, and in the light of the board's flagrant abuses of zoning objectives that way must be found.

However, the responsibility of judging the fairness of the law does not belong within the department that devises the law, even when those judgments are subject to review. What is needed is machinery for the Planning Commission to appeal the decisions that it considers in violation of city policy not just through the courts as now, but immediately, through the Board of Estimate.

It's back to the drawing board on that one; but for both the principle and thrust of the commission's land use recommendations, we say full speed ahead.

