

ADVISORY GROUP STUDIES PATTERNS OF URBAN GROWTH

Studies of urban growth and rural decline made by the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations show that current random shifts in population and economic development are producing a growing imbalance between people and opportunities. In "Urban and Rural America: Policies for Future Growth," the Commission recommends a development of a national policy incorporating social and economic considerations to guide decisions made at the national level which effect patterns of urban growth.

As possible components of a national policy dealing with urban growth, the Commission suggests: Enactment of legislation to provide Federal financial incentive and placement of contracts to encourage business and industrial location and urban growth in certain areas, and priority for location of Federal buildings and facilities in specified areas to further a national urban growth policy. Also suggested were resettlement allowances for low-income persons migrating from labor surplus areas, made possible through matching Federal-State funds; Federal on-the-job training allowances for employers in labor surplus areas; a nationwide computerized job information system; and expansion of voluntary family planning programs for low-income persons. Direct Federal involvement in large-scale urban development, and Federal assistance in the form of low interest loans and capital grants for land acquisition were also recommended.

BUSINESS URGED TO LOBBY FOR SOCIAL PROGRAMS

David Rockefeller, president of the Chase Manhattan Bank, urged business to organize a Business Committee for Social Progress to "coordinate the otherwise isolated efforts of the business community". The Committee "should make explicit efforts to shape social legislation". In a speech before the Financial Executives Institute in New York, Rockefeller reviewed the growth of business-sponsored programs in areas such as housing and jobs for the poor. He suggested that many of today's racial problems might have been forestalled had businessmen listened to sociologists 20 years ago. In his speech, Rockefeller said that "no other American institution can do so much as business to alleviate the nation's pressing problems and meet the rising aspirations that underlie the discontent of many members of both minority groups and the younger generation." He added that no single corporation could do more than make a dent in the nation's problems but "American businessmen, acting in concert, could move mountains in terms of both independent projects and positive influence on public programs and policies." Rockefeller said the proposed committee would also improve communications and moderate antagonism between businessmen and intellectuals. The committee would draw on the research of existing business organizations, such as the National Industrial Conference Board, in mapping its legislative proposals. It would be a policy-making group reflecting the point of view of the business community and it would bring political pressure to bear to accomplish its objectives.