

STATEMENT ON THE OPENING OF CONGRESS

by

The Urban Coalition

January 12, 1968

As the new year begins and the second session of the 90th Congress convenes, The Urban Coalition reaffirms its call for recognition of the compelling needs of the people of our nation's cities and for immediate and positive action to meet those needs. No longer can this country tolerate the serious unemployment, housing deficiencies, educational disparities and urban decay which plague urban America. The Urban Coalition calls upon American citizens to insist that this session of Congress enact the legislation necessary to restore health to our cities.

The nation can no longer ignore the intolerable conditions of life which cripple too many of our fellow citizens and induce the widespread discontent and disorder which have erupted year after year, warning America that it is not meeting its responsibilities to its own people.

The Urban Coalition, broadly representative of American business, labor, religion, civil rights and local government, pledges its firm and continued support for a re-ordering of national priorities and a commitment of national resources equal to meeting these responsibilities. The substantial number of communities forming counterpart Urban Coalitions all over the country is strong evidence that the citizens of our urban areas share the Urban Coalition's concern and its commitment. With the commitment of its citizens this nation has the capacity now to resolve its urban problems.