

December 11, 1967

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Steering Committee  
Urban Coalition

FROM: John Gunther, U. S. Conference of Mayors  
Chairman, Working Committee on Organization

SUBJECT: The Urban Coalition in 1968

Your Working Committee on Organization met and based on that meeting and subsequent discussions with individual members of the Working Committee, I submit this report.

1. The Urban Coalition should continue its efforts toward assuring an equitable share of the benefits from the nation's economy for the residents of our central cities. The Urban Coalition should be responsive to but independent of the individual elements of it. The Coalition should seek to facilitate the implementation of policies developed by it and others and concurred in by the Coalition. Areas of substantive concern should be education, employment, and housing, including related community facilities and services. The Coalition should encourage the formation of local coalitions to develop and implement plans for the solution of community problems. The National Coalition, through local coalitions and by direct action, should support policies to order private and public priorities to meet the pressing and long neglected needs of the central cities.

2. The Steering Committee is the governing body of the Coalition and it may add to its number as it deems appropriate. The Steering Committee shall select its chairman or co-chairmen from its members and shall determine the substance of the areas of the Coalition activities, establish a budget and employ a National Coordinator.

3. There shall be a Council of Local Coalitions. This Council will be made up of two representatives from each local coalition and it shall select two of its members to serve on the national Steering Committee. The Council will serve in an advisory capacity to the Steering Committee.

4. Each member of the Steering Committee may designate an individual to represent him on the Working Committee. The Working Committee shall select a chairman or co-chairman from its members, and may establish committees as needed to oversee the implementation of decisions by the Steering Committee, and prepare proposals for the consideration of the Steering Committee.

5. Areas of Coalition activity will be explored in depth by task forces established by the Steering Committee and responsible to the Steering Committee.

6. The Coalition shall employ such staff as its budgeted resources permit. The staff will be under the direction of a National Coordinator who may be retained and serve at the pleasure of the Steering Committee. The staff will provide services as necessary to the Steering Committee, the Council of Local Coalitions, the task forces and the Working Committee.

7. Staffing and funding should be planned on a one-year basis; and prior to January 1, 1969, a comprehensive review should be made to assess progress toward the objectives of the Urban Coalition and to make such recommendations as may be appropriate for its continuation.