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## Getting Off the Ground

The concern of the Urban Coalition, expressed so strongly late last summer by public-spirited citizens during an emergency post-riot convocation in Washington, is beginning to find footholds where it counts—in the front-line cities of America.

Mobilization of the nation's public and private resources for a vigorous attack on that urban hydra—unemployment, slum housing and aimless education—is getting off the ground. Leaders in some fifty cities will meet in Chicago next week to establish local action groups that can enlist the resources and energies of business, labor, religious, academic and community organizations. In this city, a New York Coalition has just started to translate the lofty policy language of the national steering committee into local terms.

High-mindedness, of course, will not be enough. Hard-core unemployment will take hard-core solutions. Lobbying of superhuman proportions will be required in the business and labor communities to break down traditional attitudes.

The Federal Government is in the forefront of action. For this reason the first step of the local Coalition is to discuss the inclusion of New York City in the pilot program, recently announced by the President, to engage the private sector in the attack on unemployment. But the true effectiveness of the Urban Coalition, the New York Coalition and those to come in other cities will be measured by more than simply seeking increased assistance from Washington.

Municipalities with archaic laws and practices that have effectively barred the poor and disadvantaged from job and housing gains will have to be persuaded to change their customs. Certain industries that have blocked Negroes from full opportunities will have to be re-educated. Certain unions which have denied membership on racial grounds will have to reform their practices.

By enlisting the community-action groups—the spokesmen for the jobless and ill-housed—the New York Coalition is getting to the core of center city's problems.