

URBAN ALLIANCE

Agenda Paper No. 1 January 27, 1967

The needs of our urban areas have been emphasized with increasing intensity during the past year. There has been a continuing recitation of the ills of our cities. Concern for the cities has been expressed by many groups. But there has been no molding of such groups to obtain a strong, unified voice, urging a national commitment to meeting these needs. Business groups, civil rights organizations, labor, religious institutions, and representatives of local governments have expressed concern individually. They have not collectively expressed the need for a national commitment to meeting the problems of the cities.

It is proposed that Urban America serve as a catalyst in bringing these groups together. The focal point is, of course, the Mayors, who are responsible for the administration of America's cities. It is proposed, therefore, that Urban America proceed to hold a series of meetings between representatives of the component groups of an Urban Alliance and a representative group from the Ad Hoc Committee of Mayors. These meetings would be for the purpose of developing an agenda for a national commitment to our cities.

Concurrent with the holding of these preparatory meetings between the Mayors and each of the prospective components in the Alliance, will be the preparation of specific staff work, including:

1. a delineation of the magnitude of urban needs
2. a recitation of the extent to which cities have increased expenditures to meet these needs

3. a description of those administrative and organizational innovations that cities have adopted in order to meet the increased demand for services
4. a statement on the importance, efficacy, and accomplishments of existing urban programs
5. a preliminary agenda paper outlining the basic elements of a national commitment.

Urban America proposes that it proceed immediately to the preparation of the staff papers and that it initiate meetings between the Mayors and representatives of groups who will compose the Urban Alliance.

Urban America also proposes that another meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of Mayors be scheduled in early spring to review the proposed agenda for the Urban Alliance and to approve the next phase of operation.