

STATEMENT
ATLANTA URBAN COALITION STEERING COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 29, 1967

During the last two decades accelerated migration from the farms, vastly increased living standards, the automobile, and other social and economic factors have changed our nation from rural to urban. Three-fourths of America's 200 million citizens now live in cities.

This rapid urbanization is unparalleled in any nation in world history. And the problems forced upon communities unprepared for this dramatic change is likewise unmatched in the development of national populations.

For ten years or more economists, sociologists, political scientists, and others have urged action by local, state and federal governments to plan and implement programs to meet this changing environment.

In urban areas local governments possessed neither the fiscal nor human resources in sufficient quantity and quality to do more than brace the dike against the on-rushing tide.

State government turned a deaf ear.

The federal government expressed concern, established some promising programs and formed a new Department of Housing and Urban Development to deal with city problems. But the Congress in too many instances failed to register the sense of urgency the urban crises demand, with an apparent unawareness of the critical dimensions of the problem, the nation's resources have been allocated to the race for space, agricultural supports and defense - but little to the needs of the cities.

The result is now a tragic chapter in American history. Riots, racial disturbances, civil disobedience in city after city throughout all parts of the country have cast a lasting imprint of inaction and indifference.

And in each troubled area the story is the same: Poor people. Lack of job skills. Unemployment. Unsound housing. Inadequate parks, schools. Absence of realistic municipal services. Lack of motivation. Loss of faith and of hope.

What can be done?

Nothing short of a total commitment of all community resources and a reassessment of priorities by our national government can produce results

Page Two

on a scale large enough to sufficiently change the direction of our cities.

It isn't enough that we have a city government of concern and compassion for the problems of the poor and disadvantaged. This same concern and compassion must be felt by business and by labor, by education and by our religious institutions and our civil rights leadership.

The necessity for cooperation and coordination of resources has been recognized by leaders of these sectors of our environment at the national level. As a result an Urban Coalition has been formed to seek ways to mobilize the unused resources throughout the urban areas of the nation and to do battle with urban blight.

The Steering Committee of the national Urban Coalition has called upon our businessmen, our churchmen, our educators and our labor unions to join with our mayors and public officials to develop and implement programs which will provide jobs, decent housing, education and a better life for those trapped in the current of the urban crises.

The Coalition met in an emergency convocation and adopted a statement of principles of great promise. It called upon local government, business, labor, religion and civil rights groups to create counterpart local coalitions to support and supplement this declaration of principles.

We believe the very essence of success of the national Urban Coalition lies in the development of strong local coalitions.

Past and present efforts in Atlanta to build a great city and to meet the needs of urban growth have resulted directly from an unstructured coalition of leadership in all areas of community life.

We believe our chances for continued and expanded successes can be made possible only through mobilization and full utilization of all resources available to us.

We, therefore, pledge ourselves to work together in an Atlanta Urban Coalition for the betterment of our community, and urge all groups and organizations to join us in our efforts.

Page Three

We further endorse the declaration of principles of the national Coalition and pledge to lend our talents and our labors to their fulfillment.

Ivan Allen, Jr.
Mayor of Atlanta

Al Bows, Vice President
Atlanta Chamber of Commerce

Robert J. Butler, President
Atlanta Labor Council

Dr. John W. Letson
Superintendent
Atlanta Public Schools

Dr. Harmon Moore, Executive Director
Christian Council of Metropolitan
Atlanta, Inc.

Erwin Stevens, President
Citizens Central Advisory Council
Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc.

Reverend Samuel Williams
Co-Chairman
Summit Leadership Conference



CHRISTIAN COUNCIL METROPOLITAN ATLANTA

53 SIXTH STREET, N. E., ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30308, PHONE 872-5678

November 8, 1967

The Honorable Ivan Allen, Mayor
City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mayor Allen:

In request to your letter of October 26, 1967 I am happy to report that the Executive Board of the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta is pleased with the draft prepared by Mr. Dan Sweat and has no suggested changes.

Please feel free to call upon us if there is any way we might support more fully this outstanding piece of pioneer service to our community.

Sincerely yours,



Harmon D. Moore
Executive Director

HDM:msb

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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DRAFT

STATEMENT OF ATLANTA URBAN COALITION STEERING COMMITTEE

DURING THE LAST TWO DECADES ACCELERATED MIGRATION FROM THE FARMS, VASTLY INCREASED LIVING STANDARDS, THE AUTOMOBILE, AND OTHER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS HAVE CHANGED OUR NATION FROM RURAL TO URBAN.

THREE-FOURTHS OF AMERICA'S 190 MILLION CITIZENS NOW LIVE IN CITIES.

THIS RAPID URBANIZATION IS UNPARRELLED IN ANY NATION IN WORLD HISTORY. AND THE PROBLEMS FORCED UPON COMMUNITIES UNPREPARED FOR THIS DRAMATIC CHANGE IS LIKEWISE UNMATCHED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL POPULATIONS.

FOR TEN YEARS OR MORE ECONOMISTS, SOCIOLOGISTS, POLITICAL SCIENTISTS, AND OTHERS HAVE URGED ACTION BY LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS TO MEET THIS CHANGING ENVIRONMENT.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS - URBAN CITIES - POSSESSED NEITHER THE FISCAL NOR HUMAN RESOURCES IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITY AND QUALITY TO DO MORE THAN BRACE THE DIKE AGAINST THE ON-RUSHING TIDE.

PAGE TWO

STATE GOVERNMENT TURNED A DEAF EAR.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXPRESSED CONCERN, ESTABLISHED SOME PROMISING PROGRAMS AND FORMED A NEW DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO DEAL WITH CITY PROBLEMS, BUT THE CONGRESS FAILED TO REGISTER THE SENSE OF URGENCY OF THE URBAN CRISES, AND OBLIVIOUS TO THE IMPENDING DOOM ALLOCATED THE NATIONAL DOLLAR TO THE RACE FOR SPACE, AGRICULTURAL SUPPORTS AND DEFENSE.

THE RESULT IS NOW A TRAGIC CHAPTER IN AMERICAN HISTORY. RIOTS, RACIAL DISTURBANCES, CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE IN CITY AFTER CITY THROUGHOUT ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY HAVE CAST A LASTING IMPRINT OF INACTION AND INDIFFERENCE.

AND IN EACH TROUBLED AREA THE STORY IS THE SAME: POOR PEOPLE. LACK OF JOB SKILLS. UNEMPLOYMENT. UNSOUND HOUSING. INADEQUATE PARKS, SCHOOLS. ABSENCE OF REALISTIC MUNICIPAL SERVICES. LACK OF MOTIVATION. LOSS OF FAITH AND OF HOPE.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

NOTHING SHORT OF A TOTAL COMMITMENT OF ALL COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND A REASSESSMENT OF PRIORITIES BY OUR NATIONAL

PAGE THREE

GOVERNMENT CAN PRODUCE RESULTS ON A SCALE LARGE ENOUGH TO SUFFICIENTLY CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF OUR CITIES.

IT ISN'T ENOUGH THAT WE HAVE A CITY GOVERNMENT OF CONCERN AND COMPASSION FOR THE PROBLEMS OF THE POOR AND DISADVANTAGED. THIS SAME CONCERN AND COMPASSION MUST BE FELT BY BUSINESS AND BY LABOR, BY EDUCATION AND BY OUR RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND OUR CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERSHIP.

THE NECESSITY FOR COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF RESOURCES HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY LEADERS OF THESE SECTORS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. AS A RESULT AN URBAN COALITION HAS BEEN FORMED TO SEEK WAYS TO MOBILIZE THE UNUSED RESOURCES THROUGHOUT THE URBAN CITIES AND TO DO BATTLE WITH URBAN BLIGHT.

THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL URBAN COALITION HAS CALLED UPON OUR BUSINESSMEN, OUR CHURCHMEN, OUR EDUCATORS AND OUR LABOR UNIONS TO JOIN WITH OUR MAYORS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS WHICH WILL PROVIDE JOBS, DECENT HOUSING, EDUCATION AND A BETTER LIFE FOR THOSE TRAPPED IN THE CURRENT OF THE URBAN CRISES.

PAGE FOUR

THE COALITION MET IN AN EMERGENCY CONVOCATION AND ADOPTED A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES OF GREAT PROMISE. IT CALLED UPON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, LABOR, RELIGION AND CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS TO CREATE COUNTERPART LOCAL COALITIONS TO SUPPORT AND SUPPLEMENT THIS DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

WE BELIEVE THE VERY ESSENCE OF SUCCESS OF THE NATIONAL URBAN COALITION LIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRONG LOCAL COALITIONS.

PAST AND PRESENT EFFORTS IN ATLANTA TO BUILD A GREAT CITY AND TO MEET THE NEEDS OF URBAN GROWTH HAVE RESULTED DIRECTLY FROM AN UNSTRUCTURED COALITION OF LEADERSHIP IN ALL AREAS OF COMMUNITY LIFE.

WE BELIEVE OUR CHANCES FOR CONTINUED AND EXPANDED SUCCESSES CAN BE MADE POSSIBLE ONLY THROUGH MOBILIZATION AND FULL UTILIZATION OF ALL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US.

WE, THEREFORE, PLEDGE OURSELVES TO WORK TOGETHER IN AN ATLANTA URBAN COALITION FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY, AND URGE ALL GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO JOIN US IN OUR EFFORTS.

PAGE FIVE

WE FURTHER ENDORSE THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES
OF THE NATIONAL COALITION AND PLEDGE TO LEND OUR TALENTS
AND OUR LABORS TO THEIR FULFILLMENT.

IVAN ALLEN, JR.
MAYOR OF ATLANTA

AUGUSTUS H. STERNE, PRESIDENT
ATLANTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SAMUEL WILLIAMS
CO-CHAIRMAN
SUMMIT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

ROBERT J. BUTLER
PRESIDENT
ATLANTA LABOR COUNCIL

REV. BEVEL JONES, PRESIDENT
CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF METROPOLITAN ATLANTA, INC.

DR. JOHN W. LETSON
SUPERINTENDENT
ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ERWIN STEVENS, PRESIDENT
CITIZENS CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ATLANTA, INC.

DISCUSSION PAPER

Chicago Conference

Mobilizing Urban Coalitions

Chicago Circle Center, University of Illinois October 17th, 1967

Introduction

With any new national effort such as that being undertaken by The Urban Coalition, it may be expected that organizational structure methods will continue to undergo change. For this reason The Urban Coalition is understandably following a flexible course of action. The ideas set forth in this discussion paper may be expected to undergo further change as they are subject to continuing review by both national and local leadership. The views of those interested in The Urban Coalition are invited and welcome.

Goals

Based upon the Statement of Principles, Goals and Commitments adopted at the August Emergency Convocation, The Urban Coalition's program may be restated as follows:

1. To encourage the Congress to respond affirmatively to the needs of the cities.
2. To encourage public concern with the needs of the cities.
3. To stimulate greater private initiative and effort in dealing with the problems of the cities, including both investment and technical assistance.
4. To stimulate greater support for and interest in ongoing efforts to meet such needs as:
 - job development and manpower training programs
 - open housing efforts
 - urban renewal and reconstruction

--anti-poverty programs

--programs to overcome educational disparities.

Methods

Among the methods that may be followed by The Urban Coalition are the following:

1. Be supportive, not operational. It is expected that The Urban Coalition will support ongoing efforts at both the local and national levels. It may stimulate new undertakings. It will cooperate with such major new efforts as the \$1 billion investment allocation of the insurance industry for center city development. It will give support to local urban coalitions.
2. Stimulate interest in successful examples of action. Through its Task Forces The Urban Coalition will identify, work with, and publicize successful efforts to expand employment, extend lower income housing and equal housing opportunities, new educational programs and the like. The Task Forces hope to serve as catalysts and convenors. They will serve as clearinghouses of local action.
3. Work with the mass media. Through its Task Force on Communications and Public Support and through counterpart committees at the local level, it is hoped that the mass media can be encouraged to focus greater attention on the needs of cities. Broad public understanding of the need for greater resources, of the complexities of the problems involved and the need for urgent action are essential if the goals of The Urban Coalition are to be achieved.

4. To coordinate a national legislative campaign. The Urban Coalition has called upon Congress for action across a broad front to meet the urban crisis. Interpreting and emphasizing the need for national action is as much a local obligation as it is a commitment of the National Steering Committee. Discussions with members of Congress is as much a hometown affair as are appearances before Congressional committees.

Structures

The National Steering Committee at the present time consists of thirty-six members. They are broadly representative of business, labor, local government, religion, civil rights and education. It is expected that two additional members of the Steering Committee will be selected by the Council of Urban Coalitions. As local coalitions are formed they will be invited to designate two representatives to serve on the Council and through this Council provide the National Steering Committee with advice and guidance on matters of national concern. The National Steering Committee has established seven Task Forces and it is expected that local coalitions will develop counterpart units. These are identified and discussed in the attached guidelines. Under consideration for future development is the establishment of a Council of Urban Economic Advisors to assist the Coalition in analyzing the impact of Federal economic, fiscal, tax, and budgetary policies of cities. A second Council of University Urban Studies Centers is being contemplated as a means of channeling the best research ideas concerning urban development into the discussions and plans of both the National Steering Committee and

Page Four

and local coalitions. Further additions and modifications in the organization and structure of The Urban Coalition may be expected as experience is gained.

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