



From rural to urban . . .

Americans have become a people of cities and towns. Two-thirds of our people live in standard metropolitan areas. Most of the nation's growth is taking place in metropolitan areas like the Atlanta Region.

Back in 1930, only 16 per cent of Georgia's population lived in the five-county Atlanta Region, and the region itself was more rural in character than urban. By 1960, the proportion of the state's population living in the Atlanta Region had shot up to 25 per cent. Within the next 40 years, the ratio may swell to 40 per cent.

All the while, the urban area is growing more urbanized.

Serious problems bear down on the family when it moves from one place to another, and especially if the change is rural to urban.

When the shifting of people is pronounced, tremendous problems impinge on whole populations.

The new family must have a place to live; this involves land use, zoning, and housing standards. The family must have services--schools, churches, streets, sidewalks, water, sewerage. It must also have places of employment and places where it can shop.

The fact that the newly arrived family's home may be in an outlying village does not reduce the metropolitan aspect of the problems created. The family automobile zips from suburb to central city and back to suburb again, and metropolitan problems zip along with it.

These are the problems to which the Atlanta Region Metropolitan Planning Commission seeks solutions.