

But the association views these developments as only a beginning. True, there is a new Department of Housing and Urban Development * * * but there is no consensus of what a modern city should be. True, there is impressive new legislation that includes extension of urban renewal and housing programs, Federal assistance for local codes administration, and new financing aids for such programs as open space and suburban development * * * but there is no comprehensive process that encompasses all of these programs and covers both regeneration of older areas and guidance of growth in newly developing areas.

As a measure of the inadequacy of our consensus of what urban life should be, we have as our only objective the declaration of purpose in the 1949 Housing Act: "a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family." This declaration is useful as a goal but it is no substitute for an embracing philosophy of a new urban social structure in which the values associated with home and children, community life and friends, living and cooperating with nature, will have a chance to develop.

In the area of national housing policy, we have a loose alinement of national economic policy and housing production, in which Federal housing programs have been reduced or expanded largely in response to pressures of a changing economic climate. In 1965, we need a coordinated housing and economic policy that will permit progress toward long-range housing goals under all kinds of economic conditions.

In terms of an evolution of urban development planning, we are struggling under a "project" concept at a time when dynamic physical, economic, and social forces are sweeping aside community and even metropolitan boundaries into larger concentrations of urban form.

NAHRO believes the next few years will continue to witness a revolution on the urban scene. We know only that much of the urban structure and practice of the past is dead that that we are in motion toward a new society. The trying test for all institutions and programs caught in this cycle of urban change will be the maturity and sensitivity with which we sift their past, in order to retain or discard—and the way we adapt them to the new look of the future.

To assist this transition into a new urban age, NAHRO sees the following as necessary areas for action in 1965-67. We have not numbered these areas under a priority sequence, because we believe all of these actions must proceed immediately—and simultaneously.

Action area A.—We must work to develop a declaration of goals to guide urban development in order to give a unity of purpose to the many elements that are a part of the process. Given this sense of a unified whole, it is our hope that the followthrough from legislative authorization—to appropriation of funds—to the initiation of local action will come without friction and delay.

Action area B.—We must help to evolve new organizational structures and interrelationships for all of the governmental agencies, industries, institutions, and citizen organizations that function to reach urban development goals.

Action area C.—We must reshape the specific programs with which NAHRO members are concerned (housing, renewal, and codes administration) to fit both the purposes and the structures that come out of action areas A and B.

Action area D.—We must take the initiative in launching an immediate, large-scale training and manpower development program for the urban development professions, encouraging teaching institutions at all levels to educate young people in the philosophy and the technique of urban development and then recruiting them as workers in the field.

Action area A

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The total process of urban development must be identified and areas of public responsibility must be defined for coping with each stage in the cycle of urbanization: growth, maturity, decline, decay.

To undertake this task, we must mobilize the same type of group that this association brought together in 1933 to develop a housing program for the United States. The combined wisdom of legislators, administrators, scholars, planners, architects, and civic leaders must be focused on the potentials and problems of urbanization. From this mobilization should come a national philosophy of urban life expressing a consensus that can be unhesitatingly translated into action programs.