

native successful approaches currently being used for solving city problems. Areas in which national chamber is working include steps to:

1. Conduct conferences for State, local government, and community leaders at which officials and experts present information and recommendations on ways to modernize local and State government actions for the more efficient solution of urban problems through the exercise of local and State government responsibility.

2. Gather information, from communities throughout the United States, on ways in which urban problems are being solved by the mobilization and utilization of local resources, and publish reports giving detailed information on how the problem-solving action was organized and brought to completion.

3. Provide consulting services to distribute know-how on community development to both private and governmental leaders.

Second, the national chamber recognizes the need for systematic and comprehensive work to blaze the trail to newer and more efficient methods for solving city problems and contributing to community progress.

On this, we believe that we are already taking the lead through the national chamber's task force on economic growth and opportunity.

TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY

As I have indicated, the national chamber fully recognizes that improving the quality of urban life is among the most critical of nationwide problems. By opposing H.R. 12341 we in no way imply the contrary. But we believe that solutions to complex urban problems can be best found through carefully planned studies and projects involving local talents, resources and initiative rather than through crash projects predominantly directed by people sitting in Washington, D.C.

In accordance with this conviction, the national chamber has invited over 100 chief executives of major American corporations to make serious independent studies of two of this country's most important domestic socioeconomic problems: poverty and America's cities. This business study group is called the task force on economic growth and opportunity. The chairman is Erwin D. Canham, editor in chief of the Christian Science Monitor.

The task force has now served for over a year and a half. During this time it has devoted its entire efforts to the study of poverty, a problem that relates closely to cities. Over 35 leading experts have been commissioned to develop background papers on various aspects of this important problem. Ten panels involving over 100 authorities have met to advise the task force. Six field trips to representative parts of the country have been made to get firsthand information at the local level. The task force itself has researched the subject. Two reports on poverty have been issued to date; several others are in various stages of development.

The two reports address themselves to a host of issues, ranging from the definition and measurement of poverty to changes in the Social Security Act. The value of this study is indicated by comments received from private and public leaders who have read the first