

of life in urban areas, and that we must join together all available talent and skills in a coordinated effort if we are to be successful. Such an undertaking will be a new and unfamiliar approach to the professional groups working today with the multitude of urban problems. This concept of the joining together of all available talent and skills in a coordinated effort will require the architects to know of the areas of concern of the social worker and share these concerns; it will require the social worker to understand and appreciate the role of the engineer; the engineer the administrator; the administrator the planner; the planner the educator, etc.

For the most part, the planner, the architect, the engineer, the social worker, the economists, the educator, the administrator and others concerned with various facets of our urban problems have shown an inability to visualize the total range of problems that confront our cities.

The demonstration cities program will force the groups working with our urban problems to coordinate their efforts. This in itself will be a tremendous dividend. The demonstration cities program gives us a unique opportunity to combine physical reconstruction and rehabilitation with effective social programs and at the same time develop new, flexible, administrative procedures.

COMMUNITY RENEWAL PROGRAM SOUND BASIS FOR DEMONSTRATION CITIES PROGRAM

Unfortunately, the requirements that all cities of over 50,000 population must develop a community renewal program as a prerequisite to undertaking renewal and related programs was eliminated from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1965. The CRP, however, provides the most logical approach to the effective utilization of the demonstration cities concept.

Speaking before the National Housing Conference annual meeting on March 14, 1965, Dr. Robert C. Weaver, our Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, stated, "A key provision of the new act (Housing and Community Development Act of 1965) is that requiring cities of over 50,000 population to prepare a community renewal program as a requisite for continued urban renewal aid. One-third of all the cities of this size with renewal programs are already preparing CRP's. Our experience with CRP indicates that it is tremendously valuable not only for delineating the dimensions and nature of a city's difficulties, but also for scheduling and coordinating renewal action to cope with them. It can be used to focus attention on the social and economic needs of a community's residents, and weigh the capacity of the city's resources to meet those needs.

"Perhaps the most important function of CRP is its coordinating function. Now we have opportunities, through expanded rehabilitation programs and through the community action programs of the Office of Economic Opportunity, for effectuating a higher order of urban renewal. Actions under these programs should be carefully correlated to city planning, municipal public works, housing programs, and a wide range of other activities. The CRP offers such an opportunity, and we feel that it is vital, particularly at this point in the redevelopment of the American city, to get the most out of this technique."

Dr. Weaver's comments on the CRP and his particular reference to the community action program of the Office of Economic Opportunity giving us new methods for effectuating a higher order of urban renewal were particularly gratifying.

Jack T. Conway, then Director of the Community Action Programs of the Office of Economic Opportunity, followed Dr. Weaver's remarks at the 1965 National Housing Conference by stating: "This Conference can take great satisfaction from the President's recommendation that every city of 50,000 or more must develop a community renewal program to be eligible for Federal renewal assistance. This long-range social planning, consistent with human, as well as physical needs, represents the best kind of democratic planning since all urban renewal programs involve popular participation. It is the kind of planning that will strengthen freedom and local initiative."

The remarks of Dr. Weaver and Jack Conway gave us real hope that at last we had the basis for truly merging the physical reconstruction of our urban areas with the social and economical rebirth of our citizens living in slums and poverty.

Unfortunately to date there is little evidence that this splendid concept set forth by Dr. Weaver and Jack Conway a year ago has been realized. This is indeed tragic. If, through the demonstration cities program, the Office of Economic Opportunity community action program can be made a positive instru-