

FOREWORD

Problems of intergovernmental relations are particularly significant, varied, and difficult in large metropolitan areas, where activities of all three levels of Government operate in close proximity. Since its establishment over 6 years ago, the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations has devoted continuing attention to these problems. Reports have dealt with alternative methods of governmental organization, planning, Federal and State relations with local governments, and the administration of several federally aided urban programs.

Taken together, they present a review of metropolitan America and its governmental capabilities. Their recommendations provide the foundation for a philosophy of intergovernmental relations and for a coordinated program of Federal, State, and local action.

With the intense interest in positive programs of governmental and private action in the Nation's urban areas, the need to integrate and synthesize the analysis and recommendations contained in these Commission reports became urgent and this single volume was brought together. The manuscript was prepared by Mr. Bernard J. Frieden, associate professor of city planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. It draws on those Commission studies dealing with metropolitan problems. It places them in a broad context and summarizes ACIR recommendations to all levels of government for utilizing the resources of the Federal system in metropolitan areas. The reports used in this publication were adopted over the period from April 1961 to January 1965. A list appears immediately preceding this foreword showing the Commission members who served at any time during this period.

The Commission was established by Public Law 380, passed by the first session of the 86th Congress and approved by the President September 24, 1959. The act declares that it is essential that an appropriate agency be established to give continuing attention to intergovernmental problems.

The act assigns responsibility to the Commission to bring together representatives of all levels of government for the consideration of common problems; provide a forum for discussing programs requiring intergovernmental cooperation; give critical attention to grant programs; make available technical assistance to the Federal Government in reviewing proposed legislation; encourage discussion and study of emerging public problems likely to require intergovernmental cooperation; recommend the most desirable allocation of functions, responsibilities, and revenues; and recommend methods of coordinating and simplifying tax laws and administrative practices.

The Commission is composed of 26 members representing all levels of government. It selects specific intergovernmental problems for analysis and policy recommendation, and during the past 6 years a growing number of these have related to metropolitan areas. In