

system. The political philosophy of federalism needs to be extended and applied to metropolitan affairs. Many immediate and realistic issues in the administration of Federal aid programs to urban areas hinge precisely on the concepts and values of the federal system. In the course of preparing recommendations for specific State, local, and Federal measures, the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations has necessarily defined the basic elements of a philosophy of intergovernmental action in metropolitan areas.

This brief survey of the metropolitan scene has touched on many subjects that will be explored more fully later: the problems posed by contemporary social and economic relationships in metropolitan areas, ways of reorganizing local government to cope more effectively with these problems, intergovernmental action to utilize the resources of the federal system in support of metropolitan objectives. These themes are developed in the following chapters by analyzing representative urban problems, investigating the inadequacies of present governmental arrangements for dealing with them, and then considering a series of measures to improve governmental capacity for handling these and similar issues of public policy.

Chapter II furnishes the background for these analyses by examining the current state of metropolitan America and emerging trends in its population, economic activity, social and economic relationships, and government structure and finances.

Chapters III and IV are case studies of two areas of government responsibility selected for illustrative purposes. Chapter III deals with the closely related functions of water supply and sewage disposal; chapter IV with the relocation of people and businesses displaced by government programs. Both examples provide specific insight into the limitations of present governmental capabilities and the obstacles to improved performance.

Chapter V then reviews a number of governmental reforms proposed by the Commission for strengthening the capacity of local governments to deal with metropolitan problems. These approaches generally involve the transfer of responsibilities from one local government to another, joint local agreements, or the creation of special authorities. They do not involve direct reliance on State or Federal action, except in support of local structural reforms. The merits and drawbacks of these local reforms will be considered, as well as the politics of local government reorganization.

Chapter VI opens the question of metropolitan action involving higher levels of government. Here, the Commission's proposals for intergovernmental action will be presented with particular attention to the principles that justify Federal and State participation in metropolitan affairs.

Finally, chapter VII brings together the Commission's major recommendations for strengthening State-local relations, for applying Federal resources most effectively in metropolitan areas, and for undertaking combined Federal-State-local action to deal with two significant types of metropolitan problems—urban services, as exemplified by water supply and relocation assistance, and the broad issues of inequities resulting from social and economic disparities within metropolitan areas.

No simple conclusions emerge from these investigations and proposals, but several points are clear. Poor coordination and conflicts