

3. "When the activity requires a nationwide uniformity of policy that cannot be achieved by interstate action." The planning of Interstate and National Defense Highways involve the application of uniform national policy.

4. "When a State through action or inaction does injury to the people of other States." On this ground, national action can be justified to prevent unrestrained exploitation of an essential natural resource, such as forest land or water supplies.

5. "When the States fail to respect or to protect basic political and civil rights that apply throughout the United States."

6. "Some of the underlying reasons for national participation flow from the simple fact that some types of information may not be available or usable at all unless gathered at a central point." Examples are a national fingerprint file, or the national censuses of population, housing, and economic activity.

7. "Money is the focus of another set of reasons for national participation in certain fields of service where a strong national interest is identified. The most inclusive areas of government may properly take account of the uneven distribution of local resources when the desirability of universal minimum levels of service is established."

These general principles have many applications to metropolitan problems. The resources needed to meet social and economic problems of metropolitan areas are, in large part, available within these areas, but because they are unevenly distributed they are not necessarily available to those parts of the area most in need. The Advisory Commission has concluded that these problems will not be solved simply by transferring funds and functions among jurisdictions in metropolitan areas, and that a nationwide approach is needed. Both Federal and State Governments have a crucial role to play in better matching local capacity to meet pressing needs.

In the field of relocation, many cities have lagged in offering effective assistance. More than half the States have not chosen to make highway relocation payments or are making payments below the maximum for which Federal reimbursement is available. From this record, the Commission concludes that assumption of National Government responsibility is essential to assure a uniform and equitable approach toward relocation assistance in federally aided programs.

Where Federal action is justified, other issues arise concerning the nature of Federal participation and the administration of Federal programs. The major form of Federal help in metropolitan areas is the grant-in-aid: financial assistance to a State or local government for use in a specified manner that will help to achieve some national objective. As a condition of this assistance, the Federal Government establishes program requirements and provides administrative supervision. In principle, the grant-in-aid dates from the Ordinance of 1785, in which the Congress of the Confederation authorized grants of land for schools to local governments. Today there are some 120 Federal grant-in-aid programs, most of which are applicable within metropolitan areas. Grants-in-aid are used to help the disabled and the elderly, demonstrate new techniques of medical care, support vocational rehabilitation, provide school lunches, build highways and