

specific provisions for certain state-operated community action programs, for various federal-state projects, and afford the states a more explicit role in the Job Corps.

Other welcome references, particularly in the statement of purpose of the community action programs (Sec. 201), are to "a better focusing of all available local, State, private and Federal resources;" "the better organization of a range of services related to the needs of the poor;" and "a more active role for business, labor, and professional groups . . ."

NAM is particularly concerned with the role of the states and the private sector in the economic and social well-being of the nation. One of NAM's purposes is: to provide the leadership in bringing about a steady improvement: (a) in the economic strength of the nation; (b) in the contribution of industry to the public welfare; (c) in the operation of the American system of free capital and free labor so as to afford opportunity and incentive for the individual to progress and provide for the well-being and security of himself and his family. Pertinent excerpts from two other NAM policy positions are:

- In the development and implementation of programs, the federal government—
1. should concentrate on problems of national character; avoid problems which it is reasonable to expect will be handled adequately by state and local governments or private institutions.
 2. should not bypass state governments and deal directly with public or private institutions at the community or regional levels.

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State and local governments should—separately or in cooperation with each other—find means of carrying greater responsibility for the planning, support and performance of public services appropriate to their jurisdictions, including the establishment of interstate compacts as a means of dealing with mutual problems.

Individual citizens and voluntary groups should attend more closely and constructively to the affairs of their own state and local governments, in order for them to become more independent of national government programming and financing.

Industry should support self-financing efforts of the states and their political subdivisions and should stress the need for assumption of a strong and positive role by the states in helping communities solve their problems . . .

COMPETITION FOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

NAM is interested in structures and relationships which will promote creative competition. This is the special source of initiative, innovation, development of individuals and institutions, and social and economic advance in our country. It is characteristic of a nation of grassroots; it stems from freedom of action; an environment of diversity promotes it. There are checks and balances implicit in the process of fostering competition which are not present in developing or requiring coordination. Therefore, we seek to activate in our federal system those features which make for an optimum of competition among governments, and foster, in our society, private sector activities which compete with or replace government in solving social and economic problems.

Sometimes such broad issues get lost in a multiplicity of specific interests, efforts and program arrangements. It is the responsibility of our national and state legislators, of course, to provide for the general welfare through any mix of specifics they deem will serve the purposes. But it is also the responsibility of our legislative statesmen to represent the public interest in the established ground rules of the country's basic institutions. Thus, NAM is pleased to see potential in H.R. 8311 for a greater reliance on the states and the private sector. It is heartening to see legislative reference to a policy of reliance on the private enterprise system. Sec. 122 provides for on-the-job training with private employers as well as in public service activities. Sec. 201 clearly aims at fuller use of the private sector in community action. And another current bill, S. 698, the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1967, in a title on technical assistance to the states expressly calls for furtherance of the government's policy of relying on the private enterprise system. It is NAM's view that this government policy should be vigorously implemented and a similar provision would seem pertinent in H.R. 8311 as Part C of Title I, and should be considered.

Perhaps it is time to consider ways in which the states and the private sector can both be relied upon more heavily than even the H.R. 8311 amendments contemplate. A factor leading to the great responsibility assumed by the national