

use of non-human energy, economies of scale, external economies, and minimization of the frictions of space and communication. In brief, the trend towards urbanization and metropolitanization is likely to continue because such clumpings of people and economic activities constitute the most efficient producer and consumer units yet devised.

While the population of the United States has become increasingly concentrated in urban and metropolitan areas, population decentralization has occurred within metropolitan areas. That is, within metropolitan areas the proportion of residents living in the suburban ring, the area outside the central city but within the SMSA, has increased. During the first sixty years of this century the increase in the population of central cities has absorbed 25 percent of total national growth and between 1950 and 1960, 31 percent. In contrast the increase in suburban population absorbed 45 percent of the total national growth between 1900 and 1960, and 66 percent, a full two-thirds, of total national growth in the decade 1950 to 1960.

As a result, by 1960 almost half of the total population in SMSA's lived in the suburban ring; the central cities contained but a slight majority of metropolitan population. By 1965, however, it is estimated by the Census Bureau that suburban population exceeded that of the central cities. In 1965, suburban ring population is estimated at 65 million, or 51.9 percent of the metropolitan population, while central city population is placed at 60 million, or 48.1 percent.

The reason for the decentralization of population within metropolitan areas is not difficult to trace. It is not so much the result of "flight from the city" as the joint effect of the following two factors. First, with advancing technology the maximum possible size of a metropolitan area has continuously increased. Twentieth-century technology, characterized by electric power, the combustion engine complex—the auto, truck and highway—and the telephone, has made possible much larger clumpings of people and economic activities than any prior technologies. Second, the central city in the U.S. is a creature of the state legislature which incorporates it, grants its charter, delimits its powers, and defines its boundaries. Although cities have some powers of annexation, the rate of population growth has far exceeded the rate of annexations. The reason, then, why suburban rings are growing faster than central cities is simply that with the increased size of metropolitan areas and the historical fact that most central cities have been filled up since 1920, the only place that additional growth could occur was in suburbia.

Short of catastrophic events such as nuclear war, it may be predicted that urban and metropolitan concentration will continue. Within the framework of total population growth outlined above and the assumption of the continuation of urban and metropolitan trends, it is possible that by 1990 the United States with a total population of 287 million would have 233 million urban residents, 81 per cent of the total, and 199 million metropolitan residents, about 70 percent of the total. Suburban rings could contain some 119 million persons, or about 60 per cent of the metropolitan population; while central cities could hold some 80 million persons or 40 per cent of the total. Perhaps 116 million persons, or 58 per cent of the total national population, will be resident in the large SMSA's having a million or more persons.

*Population Diversification.*—The United States has been one of history's most dramatic examples of population diversification as well as of the population explosion and the population implosion. Although the original European settlers were predominantly from the United Kingdom, the infusion of African Negro population began during the seventeenth century and was followed by waves of diverse European stocks during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The Census of Population first counted "foreign born" whites in 1850. At that time they constituted 9.7 per cent of the total population. Although successive waves of immigration were heavy, the foreign-born whites never exceeded 14.5 per cent of the total, a level reached in 1890 and again in 1910. They have been a dwindling proportion of the total ever since 1910. By reason of restrictions on immigration the foreign-born will become a decreasing proportion of the population of the nation in the decades which lie ahead.

As has been indicated, between 1820 and 1966, some 44 million immigrants, mainly from Europe, entered the United States. The predominant proportion of immigrants settled in the nation's cities. The immigrants came in great waves. During the nineteenth century large streams of Irish, Germans, and Scandinavians were admitted following crop failures, hard economic times, or political difficulties in their countries of origin. During the early part of the twentieth