

We have, thirdly, an overriding responsibility to use the unparalleled resources at our disposal more wisely, more sensibly, more justly. We must turn our attention from our aggregate wealth and its aggregate accretion year by year to its more effective use. Our thoughts must go to what a better and happier America we can build, not in some remote future but now and in the very next tomorrows, by consciously diverting resources from unessential or foolish purposes to the challenging tasks of social and human renewal.

Yet, thinking won't make it so. Thought, unless quickly followed by appropriate actions, will be only a sentimental and even a dangerous evasion. It is too late in the date for leisurely study. We must lose no time in putting our house in order. We shall continue to invest the democratic future badly until we move from wishful thinking to deliberate planning in applying our vast resources to the areas of critical human need.

We are still trusting too much to the random forces of the private market. It is our peculiar delusion that the private sector of our economy can buy and sell us into a better tomorrow. Yet the evidence under our feet and before our eyes testifies that we cannot manage the expansion, distribute the abundance, and solve the growing problems of a late 20th century postindustrial society according to the simple notions of *laissez faire* economic activity handed down to us from the 18th century.

We must accept the plain fact that the private sector is not so constituted that it can plan as a sector in the national interest. Corporations plan ingeniously for their own ends, but there is no easy correspondence between what separate employers may regard as their particular advantage and the larger needs and interests of the Nation.

Government, therefore, must assume the ultimate responsibility for developing and conducting a democratic form of planning to assure that investment and resources are shared between and within the private and public sectors to meet priority needs and achieve national goals.

The terrible summer of 1967 demonstrated beyond any doubt our urgent need to plan as a nation to meet national needs. Until that summer, employers of the private sector had gone blithely on their way, decentralizing their operations, building new plants in the segregated suburbs, ignoring the unemployed of the ghettos. In the light of last summer's fires, the businessmen saw, and many of the most enlightened among them acknowledged, the error of their ways. They have begun to face two basic facts: their need to involve themselves directly in the reconstruction of American cities, both in the physical and the human sense; and their need to cooperate with labor and Government in attacking the social and economic ills that beset the Nation.

Many of these businessmen have entered the urban coalition and have endorsed the coalition's statements of intention, which include the following passages:

We believe the American people and the Congress must reorder national priorities, with a commitment of resources equal to the magnitude of the problems we face. The crisis requires a new dimension of effort in both the public and private sectors, working together to provide jobs, housing, education, and the other needs of the cities.

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