

states, for the available industry. Aware of this situation, those responsible for site locations are very demanding in their requirements.

The officers in our State Department tell me that one of the first questions asked by such people regards the planning program of the community. The day has passed when any city without adequate zoning and an intelligent plan for orderly community growth can hope to attract desirable industrial firms. Suburban slums are a relatively new development on our American scene. They spring up inevitably, however, unless governments in newly urbanized communities exercise proper controls and restraints. Careful planning becomes a major function of local government under such conditions as we find in Maryland today. Without it, the suburbs to which city dwellers move to escape urban slums become as ugly and uninhabitable as the city slums they left Planning at a local level is an essential in these conditions. But the problems of urbanization extend beyond local communities.

The solution of these problems, therefore, calls for the cooperation of all governmental agencies—of the counties and cities with one another and of the State with all its political sub-divisions. One of the first measures I undertook after I was inaugurated as Governor was to reorganize our State Department of Planning, setting it up in such a way that it would operate as a staff agency of the Executive Department. I am highly pleased with the progress that has been made by this Department under the leadership of Jim O'Donnell and Joe Meyerhoff, and I feel certain that planning at the state level will receive an increasing amount of emphasis as time goes on. The Department has included in its programming a special section for local and regional planning and is engaged now in offering effective assistance and stimulation to local communities interested in local planning.

By an act of the General Assembly, the State Planning Department is the agency through which urban planning assistance grants, under the Housing Act of 1954, are funneled to cities and counties of the State. At the present time, local urban planning assistance projects are under way or have been completed in seven communities—Wicomico and Cecil Counties and the cities of Rockville, Salisbury, Frederick, Annapolis, and Laurel. In addition, the Baltimore Regional Planning Council, comprised of representatives of the local governments and planning agencies of Baltimore City and of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties, has just completed its second urban planning assistance project. Two grants, one of \$100,000 and another of \$50,000 were made to the State Plan-