

Establishment of such an office should give local officials a much more direct voice in the development of State policy and actions affecting their cities and counties. This could greatly enhance the traditional Maryland practice of local governmental participation in the planning of major programs, while still recognizing the need to improve planning at the state level.

Any realistic effort to prepare our administrative apparatus for the tasks ahead must recognize that the emerging problems of urbanization — of a larger and larger population ever more densely concentrated — constitutes one of the primary challenges for our society and government during the balance of this century. It is the dominant environmental change now going on in Maryland. A principal assignment of the proposed reorganization Commission would be to determine how our State government can better tool up to cope with the many difficult metropolitan problems that lie ahead. A very recent report published by the University of Maryland has this to say about city and county government in this State: "Over a period of more than three centuries, Maryland has created, augmented, enabled, and sustained a system of local government which is today both rich in history and tradition and yet essentially so uniform and responsive that it may well prove to be among those 50 State systems most capable of responding promptly and well to the severe challenge of contemporary urban development." I submit that our State government must be updated so that it, too, can show the way, as a full partner with our cities and counties, in meeting "the severe challenge of contemporary urban development."

#### IV

#### FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Another major area that the proposed reorganization Commission should consider is how the State's rapidly expanding relations with the national government can be most effectively coordinated and given a sense of authority that will help keep our federal system in balance. There are now literally hundreds and hundreds of federal programs with funds and facilities available for various agencies and activities of our State government. The U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare alone has a catalogue the size of the Annapolis telephone book with just the barest of details about assistance programs available to state and local officials through that one federal agency. Scattered throughout Washington are many hundreds of other