

serve a population of 500,000 to 750,000. This affords optimums in resources, services and economies of scale. Lesser units prove to be less economical, less effectual, and consolidation based upon contiguity and logic should be encouraged. Regional consensus and cooperation through compact and contract is feasible where four or seven or even ten local governments are involved but where one hundred or two hundred governmental units exist, the chances for efficient, economical, cooperative action rapidly diminish.

However, it is not government but the private sector which offers the greatest untapped resources and potential to relieve and resolve the intangible, psychic problems plaguing our cities. Both at the national level and in Maryland, private industry has demonstrated a recognition of its responsibilities and a willingness to put its talent to work. In late August, over 1200 representatives of the private sector joined with local government leaders to form the Urban Coalition and set forth a boldly creative program to strengthen the social structure of our cities.

The Coalition's first objective was to call upon the Federal government to establish an Emergency Work Program. Maryland had six weeks earlier launched just such a State effort — the Crash Job Program. Private industry, the State government and the Baltimore municipal government joined in a concerted effort to provide employment opportunities. Over 1100 permanent jobs were offered by the private sector, while the State appropriated \$480,000 in Emergency Funds to finance W.P.A.-type project employment for 2200 persons.

Success cannot blind us to the fact that our Crash Job Program originated as a stop-gap reaction to potential crisis. In deference to its explicit and implicit success, the state government is presently moving to establish and expand the Crash Job effort on a permanent basis. We must build hope and opportunity through long-range planning in the winters, lest we reap despair through the long, hot summers.

Ultimately, education is the tool to break the vicious cycle of poverty, prejudice and public dependence. We cannot negate or neglect the truth that compensatory education is an imperative for the deprived child. Only a better than average education can propel the child with a worse than average background into the American mainstream.