

thus the misdirection of remedial action." Although there is general agreement on the evidence of urban crisis — blight, poverty, crime, pollution, traffic congestion — Wilson correctly cites that "slums and bums and cars are not the cause of the problems, they are the symptoms, and if we tear them down or clear them out or ban them from one place, they will inevitably reappear somewhere else."

Ultimate resolution of urban problems, genuine urban renewal, rather than just relocation of trouble, depends on accurate analysis of the problems' source and adequate action to terminate basic causes. What lies at the heart of the urban crisis?

Essentially, the answer is the abrasive impaction of the less affluent, caused by two flows of population: the exodus of the educated, employed and economically well-off families to the suburbs, and the migration of the uneducated, unemployed and impoverished to the cities. Tax producers are constantly being exchanged for revenue consumers. As assessable wealth decreases, the multitude of secondary problems (poverty, blight, traffic congestion, crime) increases. Government, recognizing these problems, has launched programs designed to combat the secondary effects while the primary cause continues unchecked.

Until we act directly to stabilize and then selectively reduce the population density of our cities, all fancy, expensive social programming is no more than an exercise in futility. We have been operating under a fallacious premise and, in the vernacular of the day, spinning our wheels. If, in our highly mobilized society, the pattern of suburban exodus, rural migration cannot be altogether stopped, it can be controlled and directed.

Two bold concepts — dramatic departures from present practices — could provide the solution. First is the transfer of all welfare responsibilities to the Federal government. The machinery and the example to administer such a program already exist in the National Social Security Administration. With Federal controls establishing uniform standards and benefits which will extend from Watts to Harlem — from the Mississippi Delta to Detroit — the flow of untrained, unemployed and impoverished will be immeasurably reduced and possibly reversed.

An immediate criticism to national standardized welfare payments arises from the varying costs of living in different sections of the country. Admittedly, a dollar buys more in Arkansas than in New York. But standardized social security payments are universally ac-