

On the positive side, a growing number of states have established offices of local affairs or community development. These agencies generally advise the governor and legislature on matters of state-local relations, help coordinate state administrative agencies in their dealings with localities, and provide technical assistance to local governments, usually the smaller jurisdictions. At last count, eleven states had such agencies: Alaska, California, Colorado, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Washington. In some states, such as Maine, consideration is now being given to making a state office of local affairs responsible for passing on proposed annexations and municipal incorporations. The Department of Community Affairs in Pennsylvania and the Department of Community Affairs in New Jersey, created in 1965 and 1966 respectively, represent an expansion of the original concept by vesting certain operating functions in the department, mainly in the area of housing, urban development, planning, and financial supervision.

Additional states may move to establish offices of local affairs as a consequence of a provision of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966. Title IX of the Act authorizes grants to states to help them supply communities with a population under 100,000 with technical assistance and information on urban needs and assistance programs and activities.

Favorable signs also are found in various recently organized efforts to improve the image and performance of state legislatures and state government generally. A Citizens Conference on State Legislature, supported by the Ford Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation and headed by former Governor

John Anderson of Kansas, is dedicated to stimulating "grass roots" activity to modernize the legislative articles of state constitutions. The Ford Foundation also is supporting a National Municipal League study of the constitutional and other barriers to legislative effectiveness. Finally, a Study of the States, under the direction of former Governor Terry Sanford of North Carolina, is conducting a two-year study of the administration of state services.

Stimulated indirectly by these efforts and directly by legislative reapportionment, states recently have shown renewed interest in constitutional overhauling after decades of inactivity. Constitutional revisions have been completed or are under way in California, Connecticut, Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin. The mixed results of the November 8, 1966 referendum on major constitutional revisions proposals, however, suggest the need for caution in predicting the final outcome of these efforts to modernize state governments.

In a similar vein, legislative reapportionment has been hailed as another positive force making for more enlightened state concern for cities since it will redress the long history of rural domination of state legislatures. Yet here again, the outcome is unclear, particularly as it affects metropolitan areas as a whole. Suburban areas, after all, are gaining representation while central cities are gaining relatively little, if at all, and suburbs frequently see things differently than central cities, especially when it comes to handling metropolitan problems. In the final analysis, reapportionment may heighten, rather than reduce, the urban tensions created by the growing economic and social cleavages in our urban areas.