

A NOTE ON THE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations is a bipartisan agency of the United States Government whose members include Cabinet officers, members of Congress, governors, state legislators, mayors, and county officials. As its name suggests, it is vitally concerned with political-social-economic relations between local, state, and national governments. It enjoys an enviable nationwide reputation for devising sound intergovernmental proposals designed to meet today's needs for socio-political arrangements that will keep pace with fast-moving technological advances. The Maryland Constitutional Convention Commission has drawn upon the Advisory Commission's resources, particularly in the preparation of its recommendations regarding Article VII, Local Government.

Listed below are the titles of publications by the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations which probably would prove to be informative and useful to those interested in local government.

REPORT A-5, GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE, ORGANIZATION, AND PLANNING IN METROPOLITAN AREAS, HOUSE COMM. ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, COMM. PRINT, 87th Cong., 1st Sess., 83 pp. (July 1961). Examines the problems associated with the highly complex governmental structure common to metropolitan areas; recommends various actions by the states and the federal government to improve intergovernmental relations and to simplify local governmental structure in these areas.

REPORT A-9, LOCAL NONPROPERTY TAXES AND THE CO-ORDINATING ROLE

OF THE STATE 68 pp. (offset, Sept. 1961). Traces the development of local consumer and income taxes in the U. S. and sets forth policy guidelines for their coordination by the states. The report underscores the "piggy-backing" of the local tax on the state tax as the most promising way to coordinate state and local income and sales taxes by giving local jurisdictions access to superior enforcement resources of the state, easing taxpayer compliance, but leaving the decision to impose the tax to local initiative.

REPORT A-10, STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEBT 98 pp. (printed, Sept. 1961). Appraises existing state restrictions and recommends state action.

REPORT A-11, ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO GOVERNMENTAL REORGANIZATION IN METROPOLITAN AREAS 88 pp. (offset, June 1962). Reviews the major approaches to reorganization of governmental structure and powers in metropolitan areas, indicating their strengths and weaknesses and the factors that make them likely to be effective if adopted.

REPORT A-12, STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS UPON THE STRUCTURAL, FUNCTIONAL, AND PERSONNEL POWERS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT 80 pp. (printed, Oct. 1962). Describes state limitations on the form and structure of local government and recommends state action.

REPORT A-14, STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS ON LOCAL TAXING POWERS 122 pp. (off-