

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 18, 1969

*Just  
if*

MEMORANDUM FOR  
THE PRESIDENT

Would you consider sending the attached memorandum to your UAC Subcommittee on Land Use and Development?

It seems to me this is the only way to lift the departmental sights, as it were, toward an undertaking of genuinely national significance.

I am not sure it is possible to establish ten new cities in the 1970's. (Why ten, for example? No reason. It is simply a convenient round number.) But somehow it seems to me you have to provide your Administration with the equivalent of Franklin D. Roosevelt's 50,000 airplanes. This could be it. As a national adventure, it could succeed the space program.

For what it is worth, I have encountered among Congressmen quite extraordinary, bipartisan, interest in and support for the new towns concept. My concern is to make it a Nixon program.



Daniel P. Moynihan

Attachment

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MEMORANDUM FOR

HONORABLE CLIFFORD M. HARDIN  
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

HONORABLE MAURICE H. STANS  
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

HONORABLE ROBERT H. FINCH  
SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
AND WELFARE

HONORABLE GEORGE W. ROMNEY  
SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT

HONORABLE JOHN A. VOLPE  
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

At the May 26 meeting of the Urban Affairs Council, a subcommittee on Land Use and Development was established with Secretary Volpe as chairman and Secretaries Hardin, Stans, Finch and Romney as fellow members. The primary object of this subcommittee is to go beyond the traditional concerns with incremental urban development to a far bolder concept of what the American future may be.

Population growth and internal migration have been perhaps the central fact of the urban experience in America over the past generation, and will, if anything, be more salient in the generation to come. As you know, it is estimated the American population will increase by 100 million persons in the next 30 years, following a similar increase in the past 50 years. As there can be little doubt that much of the distress of American cities of the present time originated during this recent growth -- 90 million babies since 1946 -- neither can there be any question that failure to take genuinely

creative measures -- largely conceived and vigorously executed -- will lead to even more corrosive difficulties in the generation ahead.

In the course of the 1960's, specifically by legislation in 1965 and 1968, Congress began making provisions for Federal assistance to the creation of New Towns. With the continued interest and leadership of the Vice President, and energetic administration on the part of Secretary Romney, the Administration is moving forward with considerable promise in this area. However, we can not expect that new towns as such will absorb more than a small portion of our expected population growth. Neither, very likely, will they truly engage the imagination and commitment of the hundreds of thousands of citizens whose commitment must be had if any serious undertaking of this kind is to succeed.

What we need are New Cities.

Specifically, we must look to a period of rapid and simultaneous founding of new cities comparable in intensity to that of the Westward Movement itself.

The report of the National Committee on Urban Growth Policy makes abundantly clear that such an effort must be associated with massive Federal assistance. "The impact of new towns on the face of America," the report states, "in fact, can only be limited so long as they remain an industry rather than an instrument of public policy." Moreover, the report continues, "The present mechanisms of government are inadequate to devise such a policy and carry it out . . . . These mechanisms must be structured before the building process can begin."

I wish therefore to charge the Subcommittee on Land Use and Development to devise mechanisms of government that will be adequate to such a policy. Specifically, I have in mind the commencement during the 1970's of ten new cities of a quarter million population each, with a potential growth each of two to six times that size.

These cities are not to be located within existing metropolitan areas, nor as satellite communities. Rather, they are to be founded as much as possible in non-urban areas of relatively sparse population.

This is of course an immense challenge. I am conscious of the great difficulties involved in even devising such a program, much less in carrying it out. It may well be that upon examination your conclusions as to what is feasible will be very different from the charge herein contained. If that is the case, I of course expect you to present it accordingly. In the meantime, I await your report, which I would hope might be available no later than November 1.

Even with such a program for new cities, the greatest proportion of our anticipated population growth will have to live in existing metropolitan areas, or in nearby new towns and developments. The chaotic process of this development in so many areas over the past generation, and the fragmentation of government that has resulted will remain a matter of direct and immediate concern to this Administration, and I would expect that your committee work will address itself to this area as well.