

many developments pursuant to one action. In real life this is what happens but the position is that we cannot anticipate accurately which actions will ensure the desired results. More developed technologies are now seeing the emergence of fairly sophisticated techniques for plan evaluation prior to plan implementation. Indeed, computers and systems analysis can be of assistance in all aspects of the comprehensive planning process. However, the author would wish to make quite clear the drawbacks of these techniques in a developing country. Until such time as accurate data are available, and not just plentiful data, the computer will be more expensive and less accurate a means for evaluating the plan than is the calculated guessing process. What must be ensured in utilizing this the calculated guessing takes place only after those charged with guessing have consulted with all persons responsible for all activities that influence the subject

area under consideration. To the extent that this integration is formalized, so it will call for a multi-purpose area-wide governmental body. To the extent that it is informal, it will require well-educated and well-trained administrators and decision-makers. In fact the two are required. Both are possible — the former being more rapidly available than the latter which calls for long-term educational programmes. However the start toward comprehensive planning can, be made immediately with municipal reform and the assignment of responsibilities according to a programme for comprehensive strategic planning along the lines indicated above and influenced by the values of the population of the country in question.

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Urban Migration and Acculturation

The urbanization of planet earth —undoubtedly the most significant fact of the Twentieth Century— will probably take its place with the agricultural and industrial revolutions as marking the most profound changes in man's environment and the cultural changes resulting from his attempt adapt to that environment. This environmental transformation —population density and pollution in its environmental dimension and anonymity and bureaucratization in its cultural dimension— not only produces the bulk of the social problems man faces today, but generates the psychological barriers to the solutions of these problems as well.

The process of urbanization, which appears to be a century-long undertaking and which manifests varying characteristics in different areas of the world, is remarkably uniform in its overall patterns and effects. Thus, while in the United States (in contrast to Latin America) social and economic modernization occurred simultaneously in the cities and the countryside thereby enabling displaced rural youth to pursue careers in the urban based professions, the exclusion of one area of the nation, the rural south, from the modernization process, has resulted in the delayed migration of thousands of rural negroes into the nation's core cities. As a consequence, both the United States and Latin America are currently experiencing what Professor Halpern calls the "peasantization of cities" — the populating of urban centers with people who have rural values and life styles.

Seen in this light, the fundamental problem facing the nations of the hemisphere undergoing rapid urbanization is that of acculturation. That is, an understanding of urban migration and its effects must be based upon knowledge

of the social and psychological mechanisms by which large groups of people who have been prepared to live in a social system dominated by face to face relationships, who have internalized the values of community solidarity and economic independence and whose behavior patterns are based upon convention, are confronted with the prospect of living in a social system dominated by bureaucratic relationships, whose values are secular, rational and individualistic and whose behavior patterns must be subject to impersonal, institutionalized controls.

The Sixth University Seminar of the Twelfth Congress of the Inter-American Municipal Organization will focus its attention primarily upon the acculturation process in the metropolitan area as it takes up the theme, "The Municipality Faced with the Problem of Internal Migration." The program is designed to consider this problem from a number of different perspectives. Urban migration is seen as resulting from a cultural revolution in the countryside which is not only driving people into the cities but is producing a certain pattern of life in the urban centers to which they go. The gap between these patterns and the behavioral requirements of urban life create barriers to acculturation which, in turn, create the conditions under which large masses of people are available for political mobilization by ambitious political elites. A final aspect of the problem has to do with the resources and techniques available to the society to provide the minimal urban services to the "barrios pobres" — urban sub-communities which, because of economic weakness, technological backwardness and traditional behavioral patterns, find it difficult to sustain self generating urban development.

Urban Migration and Accultu- ration

The University Seminar is under the direction of a committee of urban specialists of Tulane University of New Orleans. Founded in 1834, it is a privately endowed university which offers undergraduate, professional and graduate courses in its schools of architecture, arts and sciences, business administration, engineering, law, medicine, social work and education. It has an enrollment of 8,000 students who come from all 50 states and more than 60 foreign countries.

Because of its history, tradition and geographic location, Tulane has assumed leadership in a number of fields. The School of Medicine has established great prestige in tropical medicine and cardio vascular studies. The School of Law

is internationally known for its curricula in both civil and common law and for its work in comparative law, particularly for its publication, *Inter-American Law Review*. Tulane University is also well known for its programs in Latin American studies. Its Middle American Research Institute conducts anthropological and archeological studies in Mexico and Central America, its Center for Latin American Studies offers degrees at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and its Latin American Library contains approximately 93,000 volumes.

A Preface to the Sixth University
Seminar on Urban Problems

Colombia: Un país de ciudades

El territorio colombiano está dividido en departamentos y territorios nacionales y aquéllos y éstos en municipios, los cuales alcanzaban en 1967 la cantidad de 891. Según el censo de población de 1964, tomando en cuenta las localidades que, siendo cabeceras municipales, tenían 2.000 habitantes o más, se encontró que de 461 había 3 de más de 500.000 habitantes; 9 entre 100.000 a 499.999; 13 entre 50.000 a 99.999; 22 entre 20.000 a 49.999; 58 entre 10.000 a 19.999; 113 entre 5.000 a 9.999, y 243 entre 2.000 a 4.999 habitantes (1). Actualmente llegan a 4 las ciudades de más de 500.000.

Es posible que en otros países del continente americano, con mayor población que Colombia, se encuentre un mayor número de localidades urbanas en algunas de las clases superiores de ciudades por tamaños de población que se han indicado, pero lo que parece tí-

pico del caso colombiano, con excepción del de Brasil, es el número apreciable de ciudades que aparecen no solamente en el grupo al cual pertenece la capital nacional, sino también en los que constituyen los medianos del total de agrupaciones. Pero este fenómeno, que podría ocurrir en otros países americanos, en Colombia se vuelve original en cuanto que el número grande de localidades en que se distribuye la población tienen cierta conformación de ciudades en términos de los servicios urbanos que suministran a sus moradores en tal medida que las hacen autosuficientes relativamente.

Por esto es ya corriente en el mercado turístico de los "slogan" decir que Colombia es un país de ciudades, lo que, además de estar comprobado con los hechos urbanos arriba anotados, hace atractivo al país en sumo grado por la variedad de localidades dispersas a lo largo y ancho del territorio. Variedad que está representada por la diferencia de diseños urbanísticos, ambientes étnicos y medios climáticos.

Las causas de esta dispersión urbana colombiana son muy claras y bien conocidas, a saber, la topografía del terreno que propició en valles o montañas asentamientos formados por pobladores de similares características étnicas que se concentraron en regiones de difícil comunicación entre sí, lo que a su vez llevó a la necesidad de autoabastecerse no sólo económicamente sino también culturalmente. Además, este regionalismo fue institucionalizado por formas de gobierno municipal autónomas, que vinieron desde el régimen colonial, pero que en la época republicana se consolidaron definitivamente.

Naturalmente que esta característica colombiana de ciudades que obedece al viejo proceso de regionalización antes anotado, está cambiando aceleradamente dentro del proceso de urbanización que es común en América. Proceso éste que se manifiesta no sólo en términos de los porcentajes entre población urbana y rural en que se reparte el total del país (en 1938 la población urbana era de 29,1 por 100; en 1951, de 38,9 por

(1) Estos datos estadísticos y otros del artículo fueron tomados de Posada, Reinaldo. "El desarrollo urbano en Colombia", *Revista de la Sociedad Interamericana de Planificación*, Cali, Colombia. Vol. I, núm. 2, junio 1967, págs. 45-46.