

on an untended lawn as city dwellers hasten to the suburbs. Local governments fashioned to handle the simple affairs of a rustic society struggle clumsily and vainly with matters they have neither the experience nor the skill to handle—with streets, sewers, new schools, water supply, street lighting, policing, fire protection, planning, zoning. The struggle too often is lost as the tidal wave of suburban settlers sweeps onward farther and farther into other forests and fields.

And too often the new cities which arise on the once-beautiful countryside without plan or purpose become as ugly and as uninhabitable as the city that was abandoned. That, in brief, is the sad tale of the suburban slum. Our little State lies across the path of that urban phenomenon which social scientists, city planners and others have called the East Coast Megalopolis, an uninterrupted chain of cities, towns and suburbs which stretches along the Atlantic Coast from Senator Kennedy's Boston to Richmond, Virginia, and which some predict may eventually extend itself to the Gulf of Mexico. As it extends in length, it also expands in breadth, and there is the rub insofar as Maryland is concerned. With Baltimore as the center, Philadelphia-Wilmington at one end and Washington at the other in our stretch, we Marylanders may expect that our problems of municipal government will increase in proportion to the expansion of megalopolis.

When cities and towns fuse physically, they develop common objectives and common responsibilities. They often find it practicable to use the same facilities—a stadium, an auditorium, a concert hall, a filtration plant, an art gallery. They interdependence makes the strength and prosperity of one the strength and prosperity of the other. The deterioration of the the mother city affects the suburbs, just as blight in the suburbs spreads back to the core city around which they are built.

One could cite many examples of this interdependence here in Maryland, but let us just take one. If the mass transportation system of Baltimore falters or breaks down, it affects not only the city of Baltimore but also the suburban communities of Baltimore, Anne Arundel and Howard Counties. This fact has been recognized officially and a commission has been set up to study the problem and makes recommendation as how it is to be resolved

Many proposals have been made, and many others will continue to be made, as to how we are to meet the new demands that have