



REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

... a research and planning agency supported by voluntary membership to promote the coordinated development of the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut Metropolitan Region.

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NEWS RELEASE

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New York November 14--With publication of "Metropolis 1985," the Metropolitan Region Study summarized its nine-volume report on "the shape things to come" in the Tri-State New York Region today. The three-year study was conducted for the Regional Plan Association by Harvard University's School of Public Administration.

"This report highlights the potentials--and the problems--of a Region expected to grow, in jobs and population, close to 50 percent in the next quarter-century," C. McKim Norton, Executive Vice President of the Regional Plan Association, said. "The projections in 'Metropolis 1985' indicate that the New York Region will remain preeminent as a manufacturing center, as headquarters of the nation's financial and business community, and as the purveyor of a host of business and professional services. Sweeping changes will take place, however, within the vast and complicated economic and social structure of the Region."

The Tri-State New York Metropolitan Region, embracing 22 counties and 550 municipalities in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut with a total population of about 16 million, was described in an earlier volume of the Study as "One-Tenth of a Nation."

"Significant shifts in population, in the nature and location of industries, in the composition of communities, and in land-use patterns

are already under way. These will be intensified by growth. They will pose serious problems which can only be met by foresight and the adoption of sound but far-reaching new public policies looking toward orderly and coordinated development," Mr. Norton said.

"There is a challenge as well as a promise in the growth trends outlined by the study. The projection shows clearly that, if these trends continue unchecked, we will face: (1) new strains on the Region's already over-burdened transportation system (2) the decay of many more square miles in the older sections (3) acceleration of wasteful 'urban sprawl' in the outlying areas (4) inadequate schools, water supply, sewerage, and other public services, and (5) sadly cramped recreational facilities. This will certainly be the result if we simply leap from crisis to crisis applying patchwork palliatives as we go along.

"However the people of the Region represent a huge reservoir of talent, wealth, drive and vision. They will not be content with the dreary prospects offered by an attitude of economic fatalism. The serious social problems which the study foretells must be met and mastered even though as the Study points out, this may require a 'massive effort' to mobilize our resources under public and private leadership. The findings of 'Metropolis-1985' show that mere quantity of regional growth can be valueless unless the quality of regional living keeps pace."

Mr. Norton pointed out that the preliminary results of the 1960 Census of Population, which have become available in the last few months, suggest that some of the figures in the projections in "Metropolis 1985" which were developed before the Census figures became available, need revision in the light of this new information. In particular, some of the population trends forecast in the Study, such as the "thinning out" of the older sections, have proceeded even more rapidly than anticipated.

Moreover, the Region's total population has not grown as rapidly as earlier indications suggested. The Regional Plan Association, Mr. Norton stated, has begun work on these revisions, in collaboration with some of the staff of the Harvard Study. The adjusted population forecasts are expected to be ready by early next year. The Association is also undertaking an analyses of the meaning in planning and development terms of the Harvard Study conclusions.

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