WHY NEED WE PLAN?

In earlier days, when new territory was being explored, planning was chiefly a matter of extending activities in "horizontal" directions. Financiers, lawmakers, educators and other leaders cooperated to encourage the appropriation and use of new land, minerals and forests. State, county and township boundaries were established; roads were laid out; towns were plotted and individual farmers were given opportunities to homestead land.

Now it is only by building more activities and programs within the areas in which we live that we can have more jobs and expanded satisfactions. Thus we have need for a type of "vertical" planning.

"Vertical" community development, even more than "horizontal" community progress, depends on group effort. During the period of locating and appropriating natural resources, many individuals were rewarded as they extended themselves away from people. Now, comparable achievements are possible only as we understand and work with people.

HOW CAN WE PROCEED?

People cooperate voluntarily only when they know that certain desired benefits can be achieved by coordinated effort. The average citizen is most interested in those problems that he has helped to discover and analyze, and having had a part in defining one community need, he understands and appreciates the conclusions that others reach regarding related problems. Therefore, if conducted by members of the community, local surveys provide a logical start in community planning.

In a democratic society no "outside" agency or advisor can establish rules for developing the program of a local community. As the interactions of human beings differ, procedures will also vary. Nevertheless, in community planning there are certain essential steps. These include:

(1) Developing a council of leaders which may be (a) an incorporated community council, (b) a council of the presidents of different organizations, (c) a community planning committee elected at a representative community gathering or (d) a self-constituted group of leaders who appreciate the need for working together in coordinating and advancing community life.

(2) Making an analysis of community resources and needs, either (a) using the check sheets suggested in this out-