

have regarding war. Community interests also vary from those that we can see and handle, like the trade with the groceryman, to influences that are mystical and spiritual, as those of religion.

But in this complex world of interdependent relations, people have vocations and homes. In the agricultural community, vocations and homes go hand in hand. Moreover, they are grouped around centers which provide trading opportunities, school facilities, churches and the like. All of this makes a natural interrelated unit in which the welfare of each person is very distinctly related to the welfare of the others.

In undertaking community planning, leaders have first to decide the size of the territory to be included. Perhaps it will be the district served by the school. Or, in specifying a more general area, the leaders may outline the boundary from which at least half of the farm people go to the town center for a majority of such services as trade, education, worship, local newspaper and recreation. An average agricultural community will include a village of 500 to 2,500 people and a surrounding area in which there are approximately an equal number of citizens.

WHEN SHOULD WE START?

These are critical times. Crude force is pushing democratic procedure into the background in many situations where the planning is done by autocratic rulers.

We can be *cooperative* or *combative*. If citizens use science, invention and power combatively civilization as we know it can be destroyed. The alternative is "vertical" community growth, doing more things cooperatively, through which a greater future can be peacefully achieved.

While there are only a few "planned communities" in America today, thousands of communities are progressing through cooperative effort. Rural people are familiar with planned programs for 4-H club activities, home project work, agricultural conservation and scores of other endeavors. Where these are coordinated with a consistent program for town and country development the community is a better place in which to live because (1) favorable choices are being made for advancing human welfare, (2) leadership functions more effectively and (3) community pride results from coordinated achievements.