CITIES ARE CHANGING.
BY- RAVITZ, MEL

THE EFFECT OF PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL CHANGES IN LARGE CITIES ARE DISCUSSED. POPULATION GROWTH IN THE LAST FEW YEARS HAS OCCURRED PRIMARILY IN THE SUBURBS. URBAN RENEWAL HAS REALIGNED AND RELOCATED THE RACES AND THE SOCIAL CLASSES, AND FREEWAY CONSTRUCTION HAS CREATED INTERURBAN STRIPS. CASUALTIES OF THESE CHANGES ARE CROWDING THE MIDDLE NEIGHBORHOODS OF THE CITY, WHERE NEW SLUMS ARE DEVELOPING. AS A RESULT, THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE EXPERIENCING PROBLEMS OF FINANCING, DISTRICTING, AND CULTURE CLASH. BECAUSE SCHOOLS CAN NO LONGER RELY ON REVENUES FROM A SHRINKING PROPERTY TAX BASE, INCREASED FEDERAL ASSISTANCE AND/OR STATE INCOME TAXES WILL BE NECESSARY. INTERDISTRICT COMPETITION SHOULD BE ERADICATED, AND MORE THAN COMPENSATORY EDUCATION IS NEEDED TO MINIMIZE THE CULTURE CLASH. (ALTHOUGH THE ARTICLE APPLIES TO LARGE U.S. CITIES IN GENERAL, EXAMPLES ARE DRAWN FROM CONDITIONS IN DETROIT.) THIS ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED IN "EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP," VOLUME 25, NUMBER 1, OCTOBER 1967. (AF)
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The schools alone cannot refashion both people and their environment and instill needed confidence and hope. This is a challenge to the whole urban community.

AN ELEMENTARY, but essential, postulate for survival in both the natural and social worlds is the need for the organisms or the system to adapt to its ever changing environment. History is filled with examples of species, societies and systems that failed to observe this immutable law and became its victims.

In recent years the physical and social environments of the American city have changed profoundly. No longer is the city just the city; it is rather the metropolitan region, or metropole, vast in expanse, high in population, nucleated administratively. These changes affect the functioning of the city's institutions, including its school system.

To understand the problems confronting the public schools now and in the years ahead, it is imperative to appreciate the changing urban environment.

Perhaps the foremost urban change is population growth. Although the population of the central city itself has stabilized, the population of the urban region has increased sharply since the end of World War II. Growth has occurred primarily in the suburbs, and that is where it will continue in the years ahead. For example, the slightly more than four million people of the Detroit region will become five million by 1975, and will burgeon to seven million by the year 2000.

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separated from others by broad bands of concrete. This consequence of freeway construction on the cohesion of the urban region has yet to be measured, but there is no doubt that it further subdivides an already anonymous, rootless population.

Casualties of Urban Renewal

Still another relevant change in urban centers is that wrought by the instrument of urban renewal. Dating back to the Housing Act of 1949, with appropriate modifications over the years, Congress has provided the money to clear large blighted tracts of the inner city. In this process of urban renewal, with its attendant displacement, relocation and replacement of population, an ecological revolution has been taking place. An interesting, new realignment of peoples by racial and social class types is resulting both from the pressures of displacement and relocation and from the many careful efforts to maintain lines of segregation.

The traditional, old inner-core slum area is being remade. In Detroit, for example, in addition to the new, middle and upper middle income luxury housing being built in the city's core area, a large medical corridor is under development, the city's major university, Wayne State, is carrying forward a significant University City expansion, and Detroit's cultural center is being revitalized and enlarged. Likewise, several light industrial parks have been built and more are planned.

The people who traditionally have lived in the core of the central city are being displaced. Only a very few low income housing units, either public or private, are proposed for this inner-core area, and these only belatedly in response to an urgent need for rehousing facilities. To be sure, two of Detroit's largest public housing projects are located in the inner core, but these were placed there originally in order to contain Negroes. In recent years, these two housing projects have had an influx of both senior citizens and married university students.

By and large, the inner city population is still mixed. It contains both large numbers of Negro and white poor who continue to live in the city's remaining blighted structures, as well as a growing number of new residents, of both races, but mostly white, who have moved into the new glass and steel renewal units. The heavily Negro inner city is changing as the new residents move in. In the next few years, if urban renewal and expressway construction continue, and if the new housing built there is mainly for the middle class, the racial and social class population shifts will appear even more pronounced.

The people displaced from the city's inner-core area are moving to the only other place they can go. Cut off from the suburbs as many are by the invisible, but nevertheless very real, segregation line, these casualties of urban renewal and freeway construction are crowding into the middle neighborhoods of the city to find the only housing available to them. There new slums are festering as a result of overcrowding, inadequate code enforcement, lack of recreation sites, and the exploitation of property by some slumlords together with the unfortunate housekeeping habits of some tenants.

Once the center of the white middle class and then, more recently, of the