IN CONCLUSION . . .

This report concludes at a point of departure, for it marks not the end of an effort but its beginning.

The facts of the Appalachian condition presented here are not new; they have only been updated. In 1902 and again in 1935 the Federal Government published extensive reports of this region. In 1961 an analysis of the region was published by the Conference of Appalachian Governors. In 1962, a fully documented study of Southern Appalachia was published under private sponsorship. Over this 62-year span, the conditions described in each report are discouragingly similar; their recurrence in these studies is the chronicle of a region bypassed. The present report departs from the studies cited above in one important regard: it not only describes problems, but proposes specific solutions and funding to meet them.

The Commission believes that solutions to these problems can be found—indeed, must be found, since time has shown that its passage alone does not solve but only deepens them. It is no less evident, from experience, that the unique tangle of problems in Appalachia calls for a uniquely tailored program and that neither the States alone nor the Federal Government alone are adequate to this challenge which involves them both so closely.

Recognizing that it is essential to *begin*, the Commission has recommended that the Federal, State, and local governments act in concert, within a framework which permits their cooperation and encourages private initiative. This, it feels, is the only possibly successful approach.

To determine *where* this concerted action should begin, the Commission has focused its attention upon the region's priority problems. It has proposed programs to attack these central strands of the regional knot, and it considers them essential. But still, they are simply a first step.

Further progress, further study will suggest new actions which must be taken and the Commission has proposed a mechanism which can evolve and implement new programs and perfect new techniques.

The recommendations embodied in the report are not, then, The Plan for Appalachia. The Commission does not, in fact, foresee the emergence of a single plan for Appalachia at any time in the future. In the years ahead, the Appalachian program will be many programs, unified only by their singleness of focus: the introduction of Appalachia and its people into fully active membership in the American society.