

## The Planning Symposium

The city is taking a long delayed but historic step forward this week with an official, public symposium on its planning problems. Under the direction of the City Planning Commission and its chairman, William F. R. Ballard, and with the generous help of the Lavanburg Foundation, a diverse group of wide-ranging experts will come together under city sponsorship for three days to talk about what's wrong with New York.

There is plenty to talk about. The experts will be busy discussing housing, education, transportation, employment and the economic base, health services, recreation, welfare, the impact of changing population patterns and of science and technology, and the effect of cultural and esthetic factors, including historic preservation and standards of building and design. They will be concerned with everything that makes a city, and that could make New York a better one.

The point, however, is that this is not to be just another series of parochial sessions for planning professionals, but that it is aimed at a broad, hand-picked audience to be made up of members of the "responsible community." It is a conscious attempt to awaken the city's most powerful and influential leaders of its business, social and cultural worlds to the urgency of the urban crisis and the fact that it can be met only by concerted planning effort.

Awareness is the first step. The Mayor and the City Planning Commission are to be commended warmly for promoting this kind of community discussion and participation. Then talk must lead to action.