

Mr. Orville Simpson II
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Speakers could be chosen who will address the kinds of issues most appropriate to the concerns of the Foundation. If urban design is your over-riding concern, for example, speakers should be experts in what I would call urban morphology, rather than urban social structure, although I appreciate that your conception of Victory City also contains very clear implications for social betterment. To make certain that the discussion adheres to its focus, I think that the audience should consist of pre-selected, pre-invited participants, two or three of whom should have read the main papers in advance, and can serve as discussants. It also occurs to me that, instead of having only three or four major presentations, all the participants might contribute shorter papers on the future of Cincinnati. It will take insight and effort to identify the right participants, but I'm sure it can be done, even if the only inducement is a free lunch, the chance to get their hopes and fears into a well-circulated publication, perhaps a modest fellowship for their participation, and a day of productive brain-storming. I do not envision a very large group of participants--no more, perhaps, than twenty. Yet it is amazing what profoundly long-range effects such a gathering can generate. All sorts of creative friendships and collaborations take root.

The costs of such a conference would include honoraria for those who prepared the keynote papers, the costs incurred in publishing and distributing the proceedings, and the local charges for conference facilities, refreshments, and meals. If there were to be a fixed sum available to defray these costs, any increase in one item would have to be offset by a reduction in another. For example, if a particular speaker had to be brought into Cincinnati from Chicago or New York, that person's travel and accommodation expenses would no doubt reduce the funds available for publication. Some budgetary uncertainty is inevitable in such an undertaking, although I believe that the speakers' expenses and honoraria might involve \$1,500 to \$2,000, the publication costs another \$2,500, and the conference logistics perhaps \$500, depending on the venue.

I propose a conference on "The Future of Cincinnati" primarily because we need to find some common ground between those concerned about Cincinnati as an entity and those concerned more generally with all future cities, but there is a second motive behind the theme proposed. I also hope that the Foundation's work will be progressively and cumulatively creative, that the successive projects you may approve will reinforce one another, snowballing from year to year, acting as a continuing stimulus to thinking about our urban future. Cincinnati would thus serve as a point of reference.

A conference of the kind proposed, however useful as an ignition device, is not the only way in which the ideals and approaches of the Victory City project could be brought usefully into the public domain. If continuing funding was available from the Foundation, and if the University of Cincinnati could be more or less routinely involved, annual projects could be contemplated and planned well enough in advance to achieve the cumulative success that I personally wish for your endeavors. My own experience has been that the University attracts quite a lot of one-time support, for laboratories, computing