Private nonprofit institutions serving the public good are heading for trouble, said Alan Pifer, president of Carnegie Corporation, in his introductory essay in support of the foundation. Threatened by political lobbyists and private political forces, their position has now, for the first time, "raised doubts about the continued viability of our traditional system of shared responsibility between public and private endeavors."

And yet, Mr. Pifer said, "the American people and most of their political leaders seem either unaware of the situation or unconcerned."

"In a sense," he added, "the gravity and complexity of its problems have simply failed to make its mark on the national consciousness." Among non-tax-exempt organizations in this country, there are an estimated 7,500 colleges and universities, 4,000 secondary schools, 3,650 voluntary hospitals, 6,900 museums, 1,100 symphony orchestras, 5,200 libraries, and 29,000 welfare agencies supported by the United Funds.

**Needed service**

The need for and the author stressed, exist solely to provide needed service, or to provide services which might otherwise be provided by the government. "There can be no question that they form a highly important piece of the fabric of American society."

The continued existence of private services cannot now no longer be assumed, said Mr. Pifer, "a substantial new effort will be required to safeguard their future, understanding and appreciation of the unique role they play in our society."

**Reasons**

Mr. Pifer detailed several distinctive reasons why private institutions should be preserved and supported.

First, they offer several opportunities for individuals to provide services which might otherwise be provided by the government. "There can be no question that they form a highly important piece of the fabric of American society."

Second, it is no longer assumed that an action as damaging as..."...something that they might have done, or continued to do, without the restorative influence of some $50 million a year.

Mr. Pifer named four groups which might not prove to be strong defenders of private institutions and organizations:

- Americans alienated from our society because of poverty, discrimination, or disillusion with traditional values, who consider private institutions part of a caste system. They would prefer private institutions to be directly subsidized by public and private effort and public responsibility. In this, his..."...a rational thing to do..."

Mr. Pifer stressed that the many people who have a popular respect for public institutions and are content to allow them to..."...be the immediate responsibility of elected publicly accountable officials."

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