

This staff serves the Administrator, who represents the Secretary of Agriculture in connection with assistance to and consultation and coordination with the Department of Commerce, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and in cooperation with various multistate commissions in development of regional programs, as required by the acts.

The staff is responsible for formulating policies and programs to insure full participation by rural communities and rural local governments in planning for community facilities, public services, and development of resources in which rural residents have interests and concerns. In addition, it maintains a continuous review and evaluation of Department operations affecting regional development programs, and is responsible for developing recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture for adapting and coordinating the Department's programs with the various regional development programs in the interest of achieving optimum overall rural community development benefits.

Program Operations Division.—The Program Operations Division is comprised of the Office of the Director including a Director, Deputy Director, and six staffs of program specialists. Each staff consists of a Chief and a program analyst, and is responsible for the consultation and liaison with the authorities in charge of all Government programs that have a bearing on its assigned "problem area."

The six staffs and the types of governmental service with which each will work are as follows:

- (a) Housing and community facilities;
- (b) Jobs development;
- (c) Schools, education, and training;
- (d) Economic opportunity, health, and welfare;
- (e) Natural resources conservation and development;
- (f) Family farm development.

3. History

In his February 4, 1966, message to the Congress, the President stated the following:

It is not easy to equitably distribute Federal assistance to a scattered rural population. Rural communities often lack the specialized organizations found in major cities which keep informed of development programs and initiate action to make use of them. Special measures must be taken both by the States, and by Federal agencies to reach rural people, particularly in remote areas.

Since it is clear that an administrative office for each Federal agency or program cannot and should not be established in every county, a method must be developed to extend the reach of those Federal agencies and programs which should, but do not now, effectively serve rural areas.

Accordingly, I have asked—

- (1) Each Department and agency administering a program which can benefit rural people to assure that its benefits are distributed equitably between urban and rural areas.
- (2) The Secretary of Agriculture and the Director of the Budget to review carefully with the head of each Department or agency involved, the administrative obstacles which may stand in the way of such equitable distribution. They should propose administrative or legislative steps which can be taken to assure that equity is attained to assure full participation by rural areas.
- (3) The Secretary of Agriculture to put the facilities of his field offices at the disposal of all Federal agencies to assist them in making their programs effective in rural areas. The Secretary is creating within the Department of Agriculture a Rural Community Development Service, which will have no operating programs of its own but will devote its energies to assisting other agencies in extending their services.