

(b) The bill contains a provision under which Federal agencies, pursuant to Presidential regulations, may waive and eliminate some of the maze of potentially inconsistent technical requirements with which a local agency may now be saddled when it seeks to put together a single project combining assistance from different Federal sources.¹⁵

(c) The community action provisions of the bill include a specific provision designed to lay the basis for joint action by Federal agencies in helping local agencies engaged in community action programs to overcome problems arising out of diverse Federal requirements and to make longer range plans than are now generally possible.¹⁶

5. *An expanded role for States and State agencies.*—In the development of Federal grant-in-aid programs, there has been a tendency to observe relatively rigid categories: some types of assistance are given only to the States, with no direct dealings between Federal and local agencies; other assistance, to an increasing degree, has been granted directly to local agencies, with no State involvement. Some recent legislation has tended to suggest a more flexible and potentially creative approach. The present Economic Opportunity Act, with its provision for Federally assisted State technical assistance agencies to help local communities develop and administer programs, provides an example of this latter approach.

The bill undertakes to build upon this relatively small but significant base for a cooperative Federal-State-local relationship. It thus contains a number of provisions—particularly in community action—designed to expand the use of State resources and capabilities. These include specific provision for State-operated community action programs serving rural and smaller communities, for State agency operation of community action special purpose programs, for Federal-State evaluation projects, and for joint Federal-State funding of specific projects or programs as a means of promoting the better coordination in the use of Federal community action and State funds.¹⁷ The bill also is designed to make it possible for State technical assistance agencies to play a broader role at the State level than the law now contemplates.¹⁸ Further, it contains provisions designed to afford States a more explicit role in the Job Corps¹⁹ and to invite their help in Federal coordination efforts.²⁰

6. *An expansion of programs in rural areas.*—The bill contains a number of provisions designed to stimulate, facilitate and support the expansion of programs in rural areas. This is one of the objectives sought to be attained through the greater participation of States and State agencies, as described above. An expansion of rural areas programs is also one of the major uses to be made of the additional fiscal year 1968 funds which the bill would authorize—a need which is particularly crucial in view of the impact of reductions in funding for the current year on communities which had not started or only just initiated programs.

The bill further contains provisions designed to focus existing community action authorities more effectively on rural problems; and to encourage the development of joint or common community action projects between urban and rural communities.²¹

It seeks to channel technical assistance efforts under the several work-training programs so that they will be particularly helpful to rural communities in developing meaningful projects taking full advantage of the more flexible authority the bill would provide.²² It would, in addition, provide for an assistant director of the Office of Economic Opportunity who would be charged with responsibility for seeing that rural problems are taken into account in all programs and for developing new programs, procedures and approaches wherever necessary.²³

7. *An increase in opportunities for, and efforts to secure, private individual and organization participation.*—A striking—and in its scope, novel—characteristic of the Economic Opportunity Act is its reliance upon private as well as public effort and resources. The Act reflects, in this respect, two facts: the problem of

¹⁵ New title II (sec. 103 of the bill), sec. 241(b).

¹⁶ New title II (sec. 103 of the bill), sec. 241(a).

¹⁷ New title II (sec. 103 of the bill), secs. 213, 222(b), 222(d), and 241(c).

¹⁸ New title II (sec. 103 of the bill), sec. 231.

¹⁹ New title I-A (sec. 101 of the bill), sec. 115.

²⁰ New title II (sec. 103 of the bill), sec. 231; new title VI-B (sec. 105(e) of the bill), sec. 632(2).

²¹ New title II (sec. 103 of the bill), sec. 240.

²² New title I-B (sec. 102 of the bill), sec. 128.

²³ Sec. 105(a) of the bill.