

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND PROCEDURES

ORGANIZATIONS

The Committee was impressed by the variety of services which now exist within the agencies of the Federal Government to assist workers and communities affected by the closing or cutback of defense installations or by reduction or termination of defense procurement. The effectiveness of such assistance, however, depends on prompt and thorough diagnosis of the problems of the affected workers and communities, and a determination of which Federal programs would be useful. Thorough coordination of the efforts of the Federal agencies among themselves and with State and local authorities is essential to a sound program of adjustment.

The principal need is to make known and available to the local community the wide range of services which Federal agencies can provide, and to bring about the development of an overall program for the use of these services. For every affected community, there needs to be some coordinating agency to serve as the single point of contact between the Federal Government and the appropriate State and local leaders. The purposes of this contact are to assist the community in diagnosing its needs and to make arrangements with the various Federal agencies to supply the appropriate services. Following the initiation of Federal services, the coordinating agency can continue to expedite and coordinate the application of these services.

The Committee recommends that the Office of Economic Adjustment in the Department of Defense (DOD), the Office of Economic Impact and Conversion in the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) continue to exercise the primary responsibility for coordinating Federal activities in those communities affected by the closing or cutback of Government installations.

Currently, the same agencies and the same personnel staff both the President's Task Force on Community Assistance and the Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Defense. *We recommend that functions relating to community assistance be carried out by a group with a single title—the Federal Task Force on Community Assistance.* (As noted in ch. 4, the President's Task Force on Community Assistance, whose functions the Federal Task Force would inherit, was created during the period in which this report was in preparation, and it reflected, in part, considerations which grew out of the work on this report, especially that of the working group on community adjustment problems. The Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Defense had been created earlier.)

The following departments and agencies should be represented on the Federal Task Force: Department of Defense; Atomic Energy Commission; National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Department of Labor; Department of Commerce; Office of Economic Opportunity; Department of Agriculture; Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Department of Interior; General Services Administration; Housing and Home Finance Agency; Small Business Administration; Veterans' Administration; and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency as an observer. Other agencies might be added from time to time as needed.