

By contrast, the Department of Agriculture has traditionally been decentralized so as to be acutely sensitive to local and private needs as well as those which are regional and national in scope.

Therefore, if the Congress decides it will be beneficial to group natural resource functions in one complex, then let me suggest that the economic and social rural counterpart to metropolitan America.

REORGANIZATION OF AGENCIES IS NOT NEEDED

Let me make it clear, however, that I do not recommend that agencies in the Department of the Interior be transferred to the Department of Agriculture. On the contrary, it is my considered judgment that it would not be wise to reshuffle agencies in either direction.

I base this judgment on some practical experience as an administrator, both as the Governor of a great State and for almost 7 years as the administrator of a department with multiple programs in every county of the United States and more than 50 countries around the world.

From the standpoint of effective public administration, efficiency, and maximum use of the talent and funds available, I am convinced nothing would be gained by regrouping resource agencies. On the contrary, the aggregation of such agencies, as proposed in S. 886, would, in my judgment, result in an enormous concentration of authority and responsibilities in one Department. Such a concentration of widely varied functions would be so enormous in its scope as to make management extremely difficult. Further, I am convinced it would place an

Today, the Departments of the Interior, Army (Corps of Engineers), and Agriculture enjoy, and benefit from, a very satisfactory working relationship. This was brought home to me again just last month when I visited Bend, Oreg., and saw dramatic examples of how the combined efforts of Federal resource agencies, working closely with local groups, could restore economic vitality to a once severely depressed area.

For the most part, today's competition between the Department of the Interior and the Department of the Agriculture is healthy. Most of