

ected in their local areas. They have the overall policy-performing responsibility in the given locality. They, of course, are closely related to the professional and technical personnel that make up the staff in each county in the United States, and all of this is an integral part of a whole and, as such, cannot be split apart without, I think, a great loss of efficiency and effectiveness.

BALANCE BETWEEN SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF CROPS WOULD BE IMPAIRED

Senator RIBICOFF. "Mr. Secretary, since you have a responsibility or assistance in bringing any land into production, any new land into production, in surplus crops. This is a kind of integrated operation that I think is necessary for effective administration, and we would not have it if the transfer in question took place.

COORDINATION OF RIVER BASIN PROJECTS WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT

Senator RIBICOFF. "The Department of Agriculture is one of the three major water resource development agencies. It is my understanding that your Department is heavily involved in the current comprehensive river basin planning program. Is this correct?"

Secretary FREEMAN. That is correct. Across the board—I have forgotten the precise number, but it is more than 50—water planning efforts are currently underway in cooperation with other departments of government under local leadership, largely through the new Water Resources Council.

Senator RIBICOFF. "I understand that 25 of these river basin studies are being carried out as a joint effort of the Federal and State agencies concerned with water resource development. And the other 27 are being made by the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with one or more State or Federal agencies. As I have tried to point out, instead of being an elimination of the concentration of functions in fewer hands, it would end up, in my judgment, in more, and we would have a growing number of new efforts to coordinate which would exceed our current efforts in that direction.