

Associations support the expansion of the authorization under this legislation to take account of inflation and population growth over the past decade.

V. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION: UNIQUE CHARACTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

The Associations strongly support activities designed to improve cooperation between the Federal government and state and local governments and to increase the capacity of state and local governments to provide the quality and variety of public services needed in our complex society.

They emphatically call attention, however, to the unique character of higher education as an instrumentality of society. All the states have, by constitutional or legislative action, placed responsibility for governance of public universities and colleges under the control and direction of governing boards separated from direct channels of state administrative and political control. Private institutions have historically enjoyed this status.

In recent years, national legislative proposals have been made which would have the effect of authorizing the administrative branch of the Federal government to require that staffs of both public and private universities and colleges engaged in Federally assisted programs be placed under state merit systems, channeling Federal funds for higher education through state administrative agencies having no jurisdiction under state constitutions or law, by-passing state legislative authority, and assigning planning responsibility for higher education within the states to agencies created for entirely different purposes.

Since inadvertance or lack of awareness of the issues and relationships involved apparently have been responsible for violation in proposed legislation of this sound principle, the Associations respectfully call it to the attention of Congressional committees and Federal agencies dealing with educational legislation and of the Advisory Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

VI. IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF URBAN LIFE.

The traditional role of member institutions of these Associations — the role of concern