

Federal agency heads would be authorized to establish uniform requirements of certain provisions of law so that jointly funded projects would not have to be subject to conflicting rules and regulations;

In appropriate cases, Federal agencies would have authority to delegate to other agencies power to approve portions of projects in their behalf;

Federal agency heads could establish joint management funds in their agencies to finance multiple-purpose projects drawing upon appropriations from several different accounts;

The President would prescribe appropriate regulations for, and approve agency delegations of power and functions under this act. He would make reports to the Congress on action taken, and make recommendations for additional legislative action, including proposals for consolidation, simplification or coordination of grant programs.

The Joint Funding Simplification Act of 1948, would not, except as specifically provided, affect substantive provisions of law relating to Federal assistance programs but would provide a legal basis for consolidating some of the financial procedures under centralized direction and control.

S. 2981, JOINT FUNDING SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 1968 EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In his March 17, 1967, message on the Quality of American Government, the President instructed the Director of the Bureau of the Budget to develop a legislative proposal that would provide for the simplification of Federal grant-in-aid programs. This statement constitutes a brief summary of the problem and an outline of the proposal that has been developed in response to the President's directive.

PROBLEM

A number of Federal assistance programs which finance different activities could be brought together in a single project to support similar or directly related purposes. Such combinations of related programs would encourage a comprehensive approach to certain problems and enable State and local governments and other grantees to use Federal assistance more effectively and efficiently. (Attached are several examples of projects which are being, or might be, jointly financed.)

However, existing laws and regulations often make these combinations somewhat difficult to "package" and administer. Each Federal grant program may have different requirements in such matters as application forms, accounting procedures, advisory panels, reporting dates, etc. Further, the grantees often must work with several Federal agencies (or constituent elements of a single agency)—each with its own distinct administrative practices. (Attached is an example of a jointly funded multipurpose neighborhood center which illustrates some of the complexities involved.)

The purpose of this proposal is to remove or simplify certain administrative and technical impediments which hamper or prevent the consideration, processing, approval and administration of projects which draw upon resources available from more than one Federal agency, program or appropriation.

PROPOSAL

The Joint Funding Simplification Act of 1968 would achieve this objective by (1) authorizing the removal or modification of certain statutory requirements; (2) authorizing agency heads to delegate the approval and administration of Federal assistance programs to other agencies; (3) providing for a special fund in each agency to finance joint projects; (4) describing the actions which Federal agency heads should take to further joint projects; and (5) authorizing the President to establish standards and procedures to implement the Act. (Except as specifically provided, the Act would not change *substantive* provisions of law relating to Federal assistance programs such as eligibility criteria, maintenance of effort, matching ratios, authorization levels, program availability, etc. Such questions will be the focus of a later study.)

WAIVER

Federal agency heads would be authorized to waive or modify certain technical and administrative statutory provisions with respect to joint projects, e.g., re-