

including the Model Cities program, neighborhood health centers, and other neighborhood services. The Department is coordinating its efforts with other Federal agencies to assure that the planning and service programs in the Partnership for Health contribute to meeting national health needs as identified through comprehensive State and local planning.

In summary, it is our judgment that the experience we have had with the Partnership for Health authority—formula and project grants—appears to be highly effective and, we believe, holds great promise for the strengthening of State and Federal relations and for the improvement of the Nation's health.

A second step we are proposing to reduce the number of grant programs in the Department is the Administration's 1968 proposals now under Congressional review for amending the Higher Education Act to include the modification and consolidation of the college-based student financial aid programs into the Educational Opportunity Act. Under these proposals there would be a single appropriation item for Federal capital for the National Defense Student Loan fund and the College Work-Study Program, with a 90-10 Federal institutional matching ratio, and a single appropriation for the Educational Opportunity Grant Program which would not require program matching funds. The fund distribution pattern would be altered from the three separate allotment formulas, which differ, to one not tied to a specific formula, subject only to the limitation that institutions within any one State could not receive more than 12½ percent of available funds.

This proposal, if enacted, would give institutions much greater flexibility in the use of the student aid programs and would eliminate unnecessary diversity among the requirements of the programs. Moreover, the advance funding and leadtime amendments proposed in our bill would provide the Nation's colleges and universities with a firm, operating base for planning their programs.

Title II of the Partnership for Learning and Earning Act of 1968 deals with the consolidation and improvement of existing vocational education programs. The proposed legislation would consolidate existing authority for vocational education programs under the Smith-Hughes and George-Barden Acts, and Vocational Education Act of 1963. The consolidation is proposed in response to the first recommendation of the 1968 Advisory Council on Vocational Education which stated, "Administrative complexities should be reduced by combining all vocational education legislation into one act."

Another significant provision of the Partnership for Learning and Earning Act of 1968 is the removal of the requirement for separate matching purpose-by-purpose under the Vocational Education Act of 1963. The bill would provide instead for overall statewide matching which would allow more flexibility in that varying proportions of Federal funds could be used in matching State and local funds.

Under present law, (The Smith-Hughes Act, the George-Barden Act, and the Vocational Education Act of 1963) 23 purposes are specified, each requiring separate accounting and matching. In addition, within those 23 categories, there are State percentage expenditure requirements for three of the six purposes in section 4(a) of the Vocational Education Act of 1963. These would be abolished.

Finally, we should like to refer again to S. 2981, the "Joint Funding Simplification Act of 1968". This bill would provide for procedures which would expedite consideration and approval of projects drawing upon more than one Federal assistance program and would simplify requirements for the operation of those projects. We believe that S. 2981 will make a significant contribution to the improvement and simplification of our grant mechanism, and that S. 2981 is a more appropriate vehicle than title VI of S. 698 for administrative consolidations for the purpose of improving the use of Federal assistance by States, local governments, and other public and private organizations and agencies.

TITLE VII

This title would amend the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 by adding a new title VIII, Urban Land Utilization. The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare agrees with the objective of this title, which is to facilitate coordination between the Federal Government and local governments and planning bodies (including zoning authorities), in the acquisition, use, and disposition of land for Federal purposes. However, on the method and details of this title, we defer to the Administrator of General Services to whom the primary responsibility would be assigned by this title.