

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, March 14, 1968.

Hon. JOHN L. McCLELLAN,
Chairman, Committee on Government Operations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in further response to your letter of February 20, 1968 requesting a report on S. 2981, the "Joint Funding Simplification Act of 1968."

This bill creates authority which will constitute a first and important step in the simplification of grant-in-aid programs. Permitting substantive authority to be delegated from one agency to another, permitting the waiving of technical and administrative requirements and permitting the establishment of uniform matching requirements and single accounting procedures are valuable simplifications of administrative and financial procedures. The Department of Labor therefore strongly supports the bill.

The President recognized last year in his message on The Quality of American Government that simplification of procedures is but one part of the problem of bringing order out of the confusing multiplicity of grant-in-aid programs. The President in his Message described program simplification as even more fundamental than the simplification of procedure, and directed a broad study of this problem and development of solutions. Program simplification—as distinguished from procedural simplification—will require the consolidation of specific pieces of legislation into broad program legislation accompanied by single appropriations without categorical dollar limitations. This bill is a necessary first step in achieving this broader objective.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report and enactment of S. 2981 would be in accord with the President's program.

Sincerely,

WILLARD WIRTZ, *Secretary of Labor.*

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, March 15, 1968.

Hon. JOHN J. McCLELLAN,
Chairman, Committee on Government Operations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for a report on S. 2981, a bill "to provide temporary authority to expedite procedures for consideration and approval of projects drawing upon more than one Federal assistance program, to simplify requirements for the operation of those projects, and for other purposes."

The bill proposes that heads of Federal agencies be authorized to:

1. Identify related programs appropriate for providing joint support for specific kinds of projects;
2. Develop and promulgate guidelines and materials to assist in the planning and development of projects drawing support from different programs;
3. Identify administratively established program requirements which may impede joint support of projects and make modifications as appropriate;
4. Establish common and technical rules among related programs; and
5. Create joint project application procedures and projects supervision procedures.

The head of each agency would be responsible for taking actions to the maximum extent possible under applicable law which would further the purpose of the act with respect to programs administered by this agency. Each Federal agency head would also consult and cooperate with heads of other Federal agencies to promote the purposes of this act.

Actions taken by Federal agencies pursuant to this act relating to the processing of applications must be designed to assure:

- That required reviews and approvals are handled expeditiously;
- That full account be taken of special considerations of timing made known by the applicant that affect the feasibility of the project;
- That the applicant be required to deal with a minimum number of Federal representatives, acting separately or as a board or panel;