

That applicants be promptly informed as to decisions for or against applications; and

That applicants not be required by any one Federal agency to obtain information or assurances regarding another Federal agency which could better be secured directly.

Where appropriate, to further the purposes of this act, heads of agencies may use the authorities included in the act to establish uniform technical or administrative requirements, to delegate powers and responsibilities, and to establish joint management funds.

The act provides that (a) appropriations available to any Federal assistance program for technical assistance or training may be used to provide technical assistance or training in connection with projects approved for joint funding involving that program and any other Federal assistance program; and (b) personnel of any Federal agency may be detailed from time to time to other agencies as appropriate to facilitate the processing of applications under this act or the administration of approved projects.

Subject to such regulations as the President may prescribe, Federal agencies may enter into agreements with States or State agencies, as appropriate, to extend the benefits of this act to projects involving assistance from one or more Federal agency and one or more State agency.

The act provides that in addition to powers and authorities otherwise conferred upon him by the act or other law, the President may take such action and prescribe such procedures as may be necessary or appropriate to assure that the act is applied by all Federal agencies in a consistent manner and in accordance with its purpose.

The Department strongly recommends enactment of this bill.

In his March 21, 1967, Message to the Congress, containing recommendations to improve the quality of government, the President recommended general legislation that would authorize Federal agencies to simplify the financial and administrative procedures without disturbing the separate authorizations, appropriations, and substantive requirements for each grant-in-aid program. This legislation broadens this concept to include all Federal assistance, including loans, grants and technical assistance.

We are presently implementing these concepts in three specific areas: (1) coordination of functional planning covering multi-jurisdictional areas; (2) coordination of assistance in metropolitan areas; and (3) specific procedures for consultation with heads of State and local government.

It is this Department's position that the proposed bill will strengthen these efforts by providing needed authority to develop more direct lines of communication with State and local governments and reduce confusion and delay in evaluating and funding programs of local assistance.

We believe this bill will enable substantially increased inter-Departmental level cooperation at the Federal level. This is a key factor to a more effective and efficient relationship with State and local governments, a goal to which we strongly subscribe.

The bill clearly states that the authorities it contains be exercised only pursuant to regulations prescribed by the President. We believe it to be consistent with the President's and our own efforts to improve the effectiveness of the programs administered by this Department.

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

Sincerely yours,

ORVILLE L. FREEMAN.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, March 18, 1968.

HON. JOHN L. MCCLELLAN,
Chairman, Senate Government Operations Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MCCLELLAN: This is in response to your request for comment on S. 2981, "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 these projects, and for other purposes."