

Section 12 of S. 2981 defines "Federal assistance programs" as programs which provide assistance through grant or contractual arrangements, including technical assistance programs or programs providing assistance in the form of loans, loan guarantees, or insurance. It also defines "project" as any undertaking, however characterized and whether of a temporary or continuing nature, which includes components proposed or approved for assistance under more than one Federal program, or one or more Federal and one or more State programs, if each of those components contributes materially to the accomplishment of a single purpose or closely related purposes. While the Department of Defense, particularly the Office of Civil Defense, is engaged in some assistance activities which might fall within the scope of the relevant definitions, the Department is not extensively engaged in the type of assistance programs apparently contemplated under the provisions of the bill. Accordingly, this department defers to the views of Federal agencies which are more affected by S. 2981.

The enactment of this legislation will cause no apparent increase in the budgetary requirements for the Department of Defense.

This report has been coordinated within the Department of Defense in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the presentation of this report for the consideration of the Committee.

Sincerely yours,

DAVID E. MCGIFFERT,
Acting Secretary of the Army.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, D.C., March 27, 1968.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Secretary has asked me to reply to your letter of February 20, 1968 concerning 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.

S. 2981 would increase joint funding and simplify the administration of grants and contracts where programs or projects are funded from two or more appropriations. The proposed bill delineates the scope, authority, requirements, and procedures to be used when joint funding is undertaken. In some cases of grants under our cultural affairs programs, joint funding may prove to be appropriate. Accordingly, the Department of State recommends enactment of S. 2981.

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

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM B. MACOMBER, Jr.,
Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations.

THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
Washington, D.C., March 27, 1968.

Subject: S. 2981, 90th Congress (Sen. McClellan).

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in further reply to your request for the views of this Department 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."

This measure, to be cited as the "Joint Simplification Funding Act of 1967," would authorize Federal agencies over a three year period to take various actions designed to promote coordination of financial assistance which is drawn from several Federal, or Federal and State sources and used for support of