

It may, however, be worth noting that the bill may be less important in terms of combinations which the Federal agencies themselves now see as feasible or possible than in connection with combinations that might be seen as desirable by State or local agencies. One of the advantages of the bill is that it should make it easier for State and local agencies to exercise influence on the ways in which Federal agencies view their own programs and the relationships among them. The Federal agencies, in short, may have as much to learn as to teach when it comes to the imaginative and effective use of their programs in dealing with the wide range of needs and problems which exist at the State and local level. To the extent that this is so, and to the extent that the bill contributes to the learning process, it ought to provide the Federal government with a good deal of information relevant to its own organization and coordination decisions.

We would recommend two technical amendments to S. 2981. On page 7, line 24 of the bill, the word "upon" should be placed after "(1)". On page 2, line 19, the requirement might better be described by the word "action" instead of the word "order". We make this latter recommendation because there are circumstances in which a formal Agency order might not be necessary to effect a desirable result.

We have been informed by the Bureau of the Budget that the enactment of this legislation would be in accord with the program of the President.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT C. WEAVER.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL,
Washington, D.C., March 28, 1968.

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

DEAR SENATOR: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice on S. 2981, the "Joint Funding Simplification Act of 1968."

The purpose of the bill is to enable states and public or private organizations and agencies to obtain more effectively and efficiently the use of resources available to them from more than one federal agency, and to combine state and federal resources in support of projects of common interest. To effect these purposes the bill would authorize agency heads to adopt uniform provisions respecting certain statutory requirements, to provide for the delegation of certain powers and responsibilities and to provide for the establishment of joint management funds under conditions prescribed. Federal agencies would be authorized to enter into agreements with states or state agencies as appropriate to extend the benefits of the act.

The proposed bill is an important step in implementing the President's request, in his 1967 message on "The Quality of American Government", for a workable plan for grant simplification. The Department of Justice recommends enactment of S. 2981.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

WARREN CHRISTOPHER, *Deputy Attorney General.*

U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION,
Washington, D.C., March 29, 1968.

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

DEAR SENATOR McCLELLAN: The Atomic Energy Commission is pleased to reply to your letter of February 20, 1968, which asked for our views 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."

Except for two minor changes,* S. 2981 appears to be identical with H.R. 12631 which was introduced in the House on August 28, 1967.

*Section 3(a) (page 2, lines 16-17) and Section 3(a) (4) (page 3, line 12).