

Mr. HUGHES. The effective administration of Federal aid programs has received increasing attention in the last several years. The Bureau's concern has been both with the budgetary impact of grant expenditures, and with the means of coordinating the growing number of grant programs as well as devising measures for the more effective management of cooperatively financed Federal programs.

The Bureau of the Budget has consistently supported the purposes of an Intergovernmental Cooperation Act. My testimony will be directed almost entirely toward those portions of S. 698 where significant problems or issues arise.

I intend now to turn to discussion of the individual titles of the bill. Title I deals solely with definitions, and we continue to support title II, designed to improve the administration of grants-in-aid to the States.

We also favor the provisions of title III which would authorize all Federal departments and agencies to provide specialized or technical services on a reimbursable basis to State and local governments. We are fully in accord with the proviso that such services shall include only those which are not reasonably and expeditiously available through ordinary business channels.

Title IV of S. 698, dealing with coordinated intergovernmental policy and administration of grants for urban development, differs slightly in language from the provisions of title IV of the Advisory Commission intergovernmental relations bill. It would be our suggestion here that the provisions of S. 698 be conformed to the Commission's bill.

The Bureau is in accord with the aim of assuring periodic congressional review of Federal grant-in-aid programs, as is provided for in title V, and in S. 458 and S. 735. We doubt, however, either the feasibility or desirability of an arbitrary 5-year termination date for such programs.

Senator MUSKIE. Does it disturb you to be interrupted?

Mr. HUGHES. Not at all, Mr. Chairman. Proceed any way you would like.

Senator MUSKIE. Those questions which might generate an extended discussion I would postpone until the end, but from time to time it is helpful to interrupt with questions on relatively minor points.

First of all, what is your count of grant-in-aid programs now? Our staff uses different figures. I never know which one is firm.

Mr. HUGHES. Mr. Chairman, there are several hundred. I think the count depends on the subclassification and what we decide is the program versus component of a program. It is of the magnitude of 300 or 400.

Senator MUSKIE. I think my staff is now using or did in the opening statement, the figure of over 500. That is 500 authorizations, I believe. It is the Library of Congress figure.

Mr. HUGHES. We would accept Mr. Labovitz as an authority on this subject and we would be pleased to agree in general terms at least with your staff.

(A memorandum on this subject, furnished by Mr. I. M. Labovitz, senior specialist in social welfare, the Library of Congress, follows:)

NUMBER AND SCOPE OF FEDERAL AID AUTHORIZATIONS

Any count of Federal aid programs is necessarily somewhat arbitrary and imprecise—and its preparation is a complicated job, because the authorizations