

grantees to use the wide variety of Federal assistance programs more effectively and efficiently.

However, such combinations cannot be packaged and administered easily under existing laws and regulations. Each Federal grant program may have different requirements in such matters as application forms, accounting procedures, advisory panels, reporting dates, et cetera. Further, the grantees must often work with several Federal agencies or constituent elements of a single agency, each with its own distinct administrative practice. As a result, considerable effort is required and significant delays are encountered.

The purpose of this proposal is to remove or simplify certain administrative and technical impediments which hamper or prevent the consideration, processing, approval and administration of projects which draw upon resources available and for more than one Federal agency, program or appropriation. The act would enable State and local governments and other public and private agencies to use Federal financial assistance under two or more programs in support of multipurpose projects.

Under the bill, Federal agency heads would be authorized to establish uniform requirements respecting technical or administrative provisions of law, so that jointly funded projects would not have to be subject to varying or conflicting rules or procedures. In appropriate cases Federal agencies would have the authority to delegate to other agencies power to approve portions of projects on their behalf. Federal agency heads could also establish joint management funds in their agencies, to finance multipurpose projects drawing upon appropriations from several different accounts.

The President would prescribe appropriate regulations for and approve agency delegations of power and functions under the act. He would make reports to the Congress on actions taken and make recommendations for additional legislative action, including proposals for consolidation, simplification, or coordination of grant programs. The act would expire after three years.

I think those are the essential points, Mr. Chairman.

Again I just emphasize that the act is not intended to alter substantive program requirements, but rather to facilitate the administrative procedures and practices that are required to carry out those program purposes.

Senator MUSKIE. In a limited way it works at the same problem as the proposed consolidation of grants authority.

Mr. HUGHES. That is quite correct, Mr. Chairman.

Senator MUSKIE. I wonder if you might, Mr. Hughes, refer to recent developments in the executive branch to promote improved inter-governmental relations, especially as it relates to the present role of the Bureau of the Budget interagency arrangements.

Mr. HUGHES. I will be glad to do that, Mr. Chairman. We can also provide for the committee's more complete review some material for the record which would spell this out in more detail.

A number of things are going on. Some of them have produced specific results. Others have not, but we are hopeful about them. One, of course, is the grant-in-aid simplification legislation to which I just referred.