

I referred in my statement also to efforts that we are engaged in with the agencies to consolidate grants-in-aid by legislative action. The health services legislation I believe you are aware of and have referred to in some of your comments.

There are two other similar actions in the legislative mill this year. One of them deals, I believe, with vocational education, and the other is with student aids in the field of higher education. These measures would consolidate existing separate programs into a single entity which would be both more flexible and more easily manageable.

We have, in addition, we are carrying on a dialogue with a number of agencies. HEW is the most obvious candidate for this kind of action, I think, but a number of other agencies as well, to explore, identify and carry forward plans to do the same kind of thing in other program areas.

The President of May of last year instructed the Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development, Labor, and HEW and the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity to revise and improve their procedures for processing grant-in-aid applications in their areas. As a consequence of this effort, an interagency task force, under the leadership of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, has carried on a very intensive program which has produced identifiable results approximating a 50-percent reduction in application handling time. The time required is still more than those agencies or we wish it were, but the effort has produced significant results, and more are in the works. We are carrying forward this same kind of effort in other agencies as well—in the Department of Interior, which has a number of grant programs, the Department of Transportation and so on.

Then in 1966 the President directed increased consultation by the Federal agencies with State and local chief executives in the development and execution of programs, and the Bureau of the Budget, after a series of meetings with State and local associations issued circular A-85, of 1967. We would be glad to provide a copy for the record if you don't have it. The circular carries out the objectives of the directive with respect to one particular area of Federal activity—the issuance of regulations and other administrative instructions. The circular establishes a procedure under which instructions affecting State and local governments are transmitted in draft by agencies to the ACIR for its consideration and review.

In January of last year Bureau of the Budget circular A-80 was issued on the coordination of development planning, an effort in a sense to have the planners plan a little better and in a more coherent fashion, particularly in programs that are based on multijurisdictional areas. The circular implements a Presidential message.

The Bureau itself is engaged in a couple of major efforts that I think are worth mentioning. They are also spelled out in more detail in the material which we can provide. The first of these that I will mention is an effort to improve the Government's management information system and statistics. It is an effort based upon the utilization of modern ADP computer techniques and technology to bring together for the use of all more effective, more complete, and more revealing information than we have ever been able to get together before about Federal programs and their impact both nationwide and on specific areas of the country. This effort is only beginning to get underway, and