

majority of Great Society grants-in-aid to State and local governments, have now been analyzed, with significant improvements made in nearly all.

INCREASED CONSULTATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

In 1966, the President directed agencies to consult with State and local chief executives in the development and execution of programs directly affecting State and local affairs. The Bureau of the Budget, after a series of meetings with State and local associations and Federal agencies, issued Circular No. A-85 in 1967, to implement the President's directive with respect to one major 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 the agencies to the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. The Commission staff, acting as a general secretariat, distributes those drafts or summaries thereof to the major State and local government associations which, in turn, are responsible for securing and presenting the views of their clients on the drafts.

In the first eleven months of operation, the ACIR has received from the Federal agencies and transmitted to the public interest groups 61 draft regulations. Evidence indicates that the procedures required by Circular A-85 are working well and that substantive comments by the State and local governments are considerable help to the Federal agencies. Federal agencies making the most use of the procedures have been HUD, OEO, and Interior. HEW, DOT, OEP, USDA and the Bureau of the Budget have also transmitted regulations to ACIR for A-85 review procedure.

PLANNING COORDINATION

In January 1967, Bureau of the Budget Circular No. A-80 was issued on the coordination of development planning for programs based on multi-jurisdictional areas. The Circular implements the President's Memorandum of September 2, 1966, on the coordination of Federal development planning.

Agency procedures for carrying out the instructions have been reviewed to assure maximum consistency among the many Federal agencies and programs concerned. Under the Circular, Federal agencies are required to consult with Governors before designating planning and development districts or regions in their States. Where the State has established such districts, the boundaries of new districts designated by Federal agencies will conform to them unless there is a clear justification for not doing so. At this time, 8 Federal programs of planning assistance are coordinated under Circular A-80 procedures.

The Director of the Bureau has taken recent action to further implement the purposes of Circular A-80. In a memorandum to heads of agencies on June 1st, the Director has asked for developed procedures for 14 Federal planning assistance programs which have not yet been coordinated under the Circular. Agency issuance of the procedures is targeted for August 1st. In addition, the agencies are being asked to report to the Bureau the experience gathered under A-80 in all the covered programs by the end of 1968.

PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Bureau staff are also participating in a Planning Assistance and Requirements Coordinating Committee, established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and representing the several Federal agencies which have grant programs which aid or require development planning. Three early tasks outlined for the committee are:

To act as clearing house for information on grants-in-aid awarded to State and local governments for various types of development planning, and to make such information available to the States as well.

To survey comprehensively the many Federal requirements for planning in order to ease the burden of the applicant State and local governments in supplying data, progress reports, and other types of justifications of planning activity.

To monitor the numerous planning research efforts which the agencies are conducting in-house by contract in order to prevent duplication of effort and to propose areas for further relevant study.

COORDINATION OF FEDERAL AIDS IN METROPOLITAN AREAS

In accordance with the provisions of Section 204 of the Demonstration Cities Act of 1966, the Bureau of the Budget has issued Circular No. A-82 (Revised)