

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION ACT OF 1967 AND RELATED LEGISLATION

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1968

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:10 a.m., in room 3302, New Senate Office Building, Senator Edmund S. Muskie (chairman) presiding.

Present: Senators Muskie and Mundt.

Staff members present: Charles M. Smith, staff director; Robert E. Berry, minority counsel; E. Winslow Turner, general counsel; Lucinda T. Dennis, administrative secretary.

Senator MUSKIE. The subcommittee will be in order.

Before we begin with our witnesses, without objection, we will include in the record a statement by Senator Jack Miller, of Iowa, who has been most interested in this legislation, first when he was a member of this subcommittee, and subsequently. We are happy to have his statement which will be included in the record.

(The statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF HON. JACK MILLER, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF IOWA

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, as a co-sponsor of the bill on which these hearings are being held, I wish to express a few viewpoints which may be helpful towards favorable consideration of this proposed legislation by the Subcommittee.

The main thrust of the bill as a whole is to provide for greater efficiency and effectiveness of the operation of the federal government in carrying out the mandates of Congress, particularly when other levels of government are involved.

One of the principal targets for improvement in environmental conditions for our people has to do with urban areas. There are many federal programs affecting urban areas and the people living there, but there is, as yet, no unified policy and guidelines for these programs; nor is there a mechanism to insure full coordination of these programs within the interested agencies of the federal government and between the various levels of government. We believe this legislation will fill this gap.

Our system of grants in aid from the federal government to the states and other levels of government has mushroomed without any particular attention to the need for consolidation and coordination to prevent duplication, overlapping, and obsolescence. Criticism that old programs never die, nor do they even fade away, is justifiable. Now, with our federal government in its worst financial stress since the 1930's how could there be a more appropriate time to establish a basis for review and consolidation of these many programs of grants in aid? The mechanisms for doing so are contained in this bill, and the decisions are left with the Congress—but in a manner which will help insure that Congress knows what it is doing. There isn't a Member of Congress who isn't concerned about the grants-in-aid thicket in which those we represent find themselves—