

exercise of fiscal prudence and accountability at all levels of government.

We turn now to S. 2981, the final major topic that is covered in your hearings, Mr. Chairman. It is our understanding that S. 2981, The Joint Funding Simplification Act of 1968, has been referred to your subcommittee and that this measure is to be considered in these hearings. The Advisory Commission, in its fiscal balance report, recommended enactment by the Congress of this administration bill as an important means of modernizing the management of Federal assistance programs.

States and localities more and more are adopting a multifunctional, packaging approach to meet varying social and physical developmental needs. Yet presently, a State or local government in putting together an integrated program must apply separately, for example, for the educational component, welfare component, job training component, urban renewal component, and so on. Keeping the separate applications moving along in tandem frequently nearly becomes an exercise in administrative futility.

This bill seeks to remove or simplify administrative or technical requirements to permit a more flexible packaging approach to consideration, processing, approval, and administration of Federal assistance programs.

The Advisory Commission believes this joint funding approach is workable assuming it is reinforced with strong direction at the highest administrative levels in the executive branch and at the same time receives the dedication to cooperation from functional program administrators. We are convinced that initial implementing efforts—assuming the bill's enactment—should focus on the intradepartmental phase of this packaging problem, since the management hurdles in this area are far less difficult than those involving interdepartmental collaboration.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, the Advisory Commission strongly supports passage of S. 698, the proposed Intergovernmental Cooperation Act including amendment No. 748, and we support the enactment of S. 2981.

These bills constitute a viable, vigorous, first response to many of the management muddles that plague contemporary intergovernmental relations. We support them. We urge their early enactment. And we offer the services of our staff to assist the subcommittee in whatever way is deemed appropriate to facilitate your deliberations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes our statement.

Senator MUSKIE. Thank you very much, Mr. Colman, for your excellent statement. I know the committee will be interested in studying not only that portion which you read, but the remainder of the statement.

(The complete statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF WM. G. COLMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am appearing on behalf of the Chairman, Farris Bryant, and members of the Advisory Commission in support of the proposed "intergovernmental Cooperation Act" and two related measures.

In 1959, as you well know, Mr. Chairman, the Congress established the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations and stipulated that in performing its primary function of developing and considering "ways and means of fostering