

Central Government, would seem a worthwhile effort, consistent with the general character of the two preceding titles; and we do not oppose it.

There are a number of serious issues relating to land acquisition policies which this title does not approach. Recommendations regarding these issues hopefully will be made by the Public Land Law Review Commission which is currently pursuing intensive studies relating to public lands.

TECHNICAL PROPOSALS

Chairman Muskie's amendment No. 748 and S. 2981—the accounting, auditing, and joint funding proposals—themselves testify to the need for title VI of S. 698. These technical proposals not only underscore the need to seek consolidation of programs and uniformity of procedures but correct, in some degree, the complicated and confusing ramifications resulting from hundreds of Federal aid programs.

We do not object to these proposals as such. They have practical merit. We would hope these efforts to correct symptoms will not impede the more basic proposal in title VI. Furthermore, these provisions may be more difficult to apply than is now contemplated. Proposed title X, section 1003(b), for example, mandates a rather massive study-and-review job for the General Accounting Office—and especially at this critical point in our fiscal circumstances, this might require greater resources than the results would merit.

However, my participation in the critics' sessions on the ACIR's draft report on fiscal balance in the American Federal System has convinced me that the problems are real ones, and these technical avenues to their resolution—especially the joint funding—constitute appropriate efforts. There should be less need for them, however, as program consolidation goes forward.

CONCLUSION

NAM appreciates the privilege of presenting its views to the Senate subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations. We hope our comments in regard to strengthening the responsible role of the states in the Federal system, and the several specific suggestions for revising language, will help the subcommittee perfect this legislation and contribute to its passage.

We want to repeat our particular interest in titles V and VI and again urge that at least these be promptly enacted, even if to do so requires splitting them off into a separate bill.

Senator BAKER. Miss Bingham, I thank you very much.

Let me assure you that we are very interested in your viewpoints, in your analysis, and we are extremely anxious that you continue with the staff to elaborate on these points and to include such additional statements or ideas as you may have for record purposes.

Thank you.

MISS BINGHAM. We will be very happy to respond to any inquiries following this.

Senator BAKER. Very good. Thank you very much.

Senator BAKER. The hearing will be recessed.

(Whereupon, at 4:45 p.m. the subcommittee adjourned to reconvene at 9:45 a.m., Thursday, May 16, 1968.)