

Since 1965, the need for this section has become much more acute. In your remarks introducing the act in 1967, you pointed out how much Federal programs had grown in just one small area—Federal grant programs for community water supply, sewers, and sewage treatment facilities. Five agencies of the Federal Government are presently involved in administering such grants. Even though the agencies have worked out arrangements designed to minimize administrative confusion, it is still difficult for State and local governmental officials to sort out these programs, and to know which ones might be of the greatest help in solving their problems. There are now more than 200 major Federal grant-in-aid programs to assist State and local governments. I understand there are something over 400 different authorizations. Many of these are extremely valuable—even necessary—but there can be no doubt that they should be reviewed periodically and systematically, and that we must attempt substantially to reduce the number. While it is true that State and local governmental agencies, which maintain the day-to-day contact with the general public, can now come before congressional committees to let us know their views, there is no formal or systematic procedure for bringing such matters to the attention either of Congress or of the executive branch. Therefore, all too often, no new program will be initiated to meet a specific need without sufficient consideration being given to the greater efficiency which might come through the expansion or alteration of existing programs.

As our population increases, it is virtually certain that the size of Federal grant-in-aid programs will also expand. Therefore, the need for a systematic program of review becomes greater by the year. This bill contains an effective mechanism for bringing about the needed review of programs. This is the automatic expiration of grant-in-aid programs after 5 years. In cases where no termination date is specified by law, and a grant-in-aid program is not specifically exempted from the provisions of this act, then the authority to make such grants-in-aid will expire not later than June 30 of the fifth calendar year which begins after the effective date of such act.

It also provides that the committees of the Senate and the House to which legislation extending such authority would be referred, shall, separately or jointly, carry out studies of the program with a view to ascertaining whether or not its continuation would serve the public interest, including a determination of whether or not a substitute might be an improvement.

A significant new authority is provided in title VI. This authorizes the President to submit to the Congress plans for the consolidation of individual categorical grants. Congress could accept or disapprove the plan in a manner similar to that provided in the Reorganization Act of 1949, which was passed in accordance with the recommendations of the Hoover Commission.

This means that a consolidation plan will go into effect 90 days after submission by the President unless, during that time, either the Senate or the House passes a resolution in opposition to the plan.

There are many other provisions in this comprehensive measure. Altogether, it will enable the Federal Government, the States, and the local governmental bodies to achieve the fullest cooperation and coordination of those activities in which they are jointly engaged