

S. 2981—JOINT FUNDING SIMPLIFICATION ACT

Section 6(b) of S. 2981 provides an important new means by which Federal agency heads may arrange for joint review of proposals by a single panel, board, or committee in lieu of separate review.

In authorizing the establishment of joint management funds in section 8 of the bill, accounting and administration will be streamlined and simplified both for recipient institutions and awarding agencies. In addition, the establishment of uniform administrative and technical requirements encouraged by section 6(a) will go far in reducing the administrative complexities which often stand in the way of responsive program administration.

In summary this Department strongly endorses the concepts of grant simplification reflected in S. 2981 and we feel that the authority contained in S. 2981 will permit an application of these concepts to help solve the mounting problems associated with the increasing complexity of Federal aid administration.

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare welcomes the attention, Mr. Chairman, that the Committee under your distinguished leadership is devoting to the central issues of good administration and intergovernmental cooperation, which are so vital to the successful operation of the Department's programs.

Senator MUSKIE. This brings these hearings to a close.

(Whereupon, at 1:20 p.m., the committee adjourned.)