

requirements, coupled with the variety of appropriation provisions, stand in the way of effective use of federal aids by the states in carrying out national and state objectives. The attached statements abstracted from the responses of the Governors indicate that combined packages of federal grants have not been successfully worked through under existing legislation.

The nation's interest in industrial development in the backward areas would be pursued more effectively if a number of grant programs could, in fact, be put together to help the states carry on the intent of, for example, the grants administered by the Department of Transportation and the Economic Development Administration.

Water pollution control would be achieved more rapidly if grants from several agencies could be combined.

Rural water and sewer planning could be advanced by combining funds of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Agriculture.

The pursuit of health services in the neighborhoods, of health care for migrant workers, of child welfare services, could be greatly enhanced if the appropriate grant provisions could be combined.

It is clear from the reports of the Governors that where the federal agencies have taken the initiative, such as in combining through a single plan submission of separate grant programs, such combinations have been worked through with reduced processing time and reduced expenditure of funds by the states in applying for and receiving federal assistance. The joint plan submissions for title VIII of the Housing Act of 1964 and title IX of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 serve as a model for what might be done.

In response to the President's Quality of Government Message several federal agencies have sought to develop other packages of federal aids. The recent endorsement by the U. S. Office of Education of a combined packaging of educational aids proposed by the State of Texas provides a design for comprehensive packaging and planning of federally assisted educational programs. The state plans for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, titles I, II, III, V and VI, the National Defense Educational Act, titles III and V-A, the Vocational Education Act of 1963, and the Educational Professions Development Act of 1967 are to be modified to permit the packaging of federal funds for these programs, and the use of the funds in accord with the developed state coordinated policy. Local school districts in harmony with this policy may generally submit single plans for federal aid and single reports.

In other instances, where the intent has been to package federal aids, authority was not available that could facilitate and encourage such combinations. Delays in processing, developing out of precise reviews of differences in legislative authority, create barriers to such packaging in the absence of new legislative authority. As one Governor points out the progress toward program simplification has been haphazard because of the absence of a strong federal commitment, an absence which in part is attributed to lack of clear legislative authority.

We would welcome the inclusion of this letter and attached materials in the record of hearings on S. 2981, the Joint Funding Simplification Act.

Sincerely,

PHILIP H. HOFF,
Governor.