

MESSAGE TO THE CONFERENCE OF GOVERNORS' REPRESENTATIVES

ON URBAN PROBLEMS

Arlie House, Warrenton, Virginia - February 1, 1967

Let me first acknowledge the unprecedented nature of this two-day meeting, the first of its kind, and congratulate Secretary Robert Weaver and Assistant Secretary Ralph Taylor for calling such a meeting.

I also want to congratulate Bob Weaver because he is a Secretary who has a deep feeling of the Federal system which springs from his lifetime of experience at all levels of government.

I believe we can all feel the growing awareness across this country of the necessity of working together. I have done what I could in the past two years to further the cause of cooperation among the local, state and national levels of our Federal system.

On November 11 at my request the President issued his landmark memorandum to departmental secretaries and chiefs of independent agencies directing them:

"To the fullest practical extent ... to take steps to afford representatives of the Chief Executives of State and local government the opportunity to advise and consult in the development of programs which directly affect the conduct of State and local affairs."

Just yesterday, the letter went out from Director of the Budget Schultze implementing the President's memorandum. That letter contains these directives:

- Federal departments and agencies will provide timely information on new and changing programs;
- That they will consult with chief elected state and local officials on matters of organization, management and operation of programs;
- That they will designate at the Assistant Secretary level a person who is responsible to see that the President's directive of November 11 is carried out, and
- That the departments and agencies are to consult with the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations in carrying out these directives.

As you can see this Administration is making more meaningful the cooperation among the levels of our government. Your conference at Airlie House is a salutary part of the necessary cooperation we all seek. Good luck.

Hubert H. Humphrey



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