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**OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

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REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

RELEASE OF VICE PRESIDENTIAL HANDBOOK FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS

Washington, D. C.

January 24, 1968

Today I wish to announce the publication of the Vice President's Handbook for Local Officials. I am sending copies of the book to State and local officials, including governors, legislators, mayors, city managers, county officials and many others. The book is also being distributed throughout Congress and the Executive Branch of the Government. It will be put on sale tomorrow morning at the Government Printing Office.

The Handbook was written in response to a critical problem for local government -- the scarcity of consolidated and well organized information about Federal assistance programs for localities. As President Johnson's liaison with local government, I have had meetings with mayors in many parts of the country and here in Washington, and this problem has come up time and again.

Prior to the Handbook, my office collected materials from the Federal agencies that professed to explain their programs. This information came in an extreme variety of forms, at many levels of completeness and detail, and in such a volume that no man could read and absorb it. With the assistance of Federal agencies this mass of information was distilled into a cogent, readable and understandable document; a working reference source.

The Handbook is a compendium of Federal programs which aid or have an impact on localities -- it is organized in the way a mayor sees things, by functions and problem areas; and written in language that those of us who are not program specialists can understand.

The Handbook has six major parts. The first part discusses Federal assistance in general and some techniques that can be used to increase the impact of Federal programs in any given locality. The other five parts cover the following substantive groupings of programs:

- Regional and local planning and economic development
- Human Resource assistance and development
- Public safety and disaster assistance
- Natural resource and environment improvement
- Development and construction of physical facilities.

I hope that the Handbook will be a significant contribution to local government. I wish to thank the various Federal agencies for their help in writing it, particularly the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Office of Economic Opportunity.



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Let me note that the Handbook was developed to be used in **conjunction** with OEO's Catalog of Federal Assistance Programs. The Handbook is closely related to the Catalog in that the general treatment of programs in the Handbook is cross-referenced to the more detailed explanation of the Catalog.

Although the book was written for local officials, persons at all levels of government and private citizens and industry interested in the nation's localities will find it interesting and useful.

Students and college and university personnel will find it to be a useful source book on the domestic activities of the Federal government.

Federal government employees will be able to use the book as a general summary of programs.

By helping fill this information gap, the Handbook will contribute to effectiveness and efficiency at the several levels of government.

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