

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 27, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR Honorable Clifford Hardin
 Secretary of Agriculture

 Honorable Maurice H. Stans
 Secretary of Commerce

 Honorable Robert H. Finch
 Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare

 Honorable George W. Romney
 Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

 Honorable George P. Shultz
 Secretary of Labor

 Honorable John A. Volpe
 Secretary of Transportation

 Honorable John N. Mitchell
 The Attorney General

 Honorable Bertrand Harding
 Acting Director, Office of Economic Opportunity

 Honorable Hilary J. Sandoval, Jr.
 Administrator, Small Business Administration

 Honorable Nils Boe
 Director, Office of Intergovernmental Relations

Subject: Federal Field Delegations

I am today instructing the Director of the Bureau of the Budget to undertake with you and other department and agency heads jointly a review of existing patterns of field establishments and delegations of authority, and a follow-on action program toward greater and more consistent decentralization of Federal programs. I believe greater and more uniform decentralization of Federal agencies is essential for streamlining our assistance to States and communities and for improved interagency coordination. In addition, greater decentralization should contribute to closer cooperation and coordination between Federal agencies and State and local governments since decision-making will be closer to the non-Federal agencies directly responsible for delivery of services.

As a part of this program to streamline Federal assistance to States and communities, every step in each process should be examined with a view toward elimination if at all possible. Those which cannot be eliminated should be simplified in any way possible.

It is my desire that each of you work with the Director of the Bureau of the Budget in selecting appropriate senior officials from your agencies to participate in this undertaking. I am asking the Director of the Bureau of the Budget to report back to me and the Urban Affairs Council on progress toward greater decentralization in three months and again in a year.

I am aware that some of you have already begun to take steps toward greater decentralization. These early starts will be very helpful in our efforts to improve the administration of Federal programs.

I regard this undertaking as both urgent and important.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert F. Kennedy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.