

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 F. Shultz
Secretary of Labor

Honorable John A. Volpe
Secretary of Transportation

Honorable John N. Mitchell
The Attorney General

Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Director, Office of Economic Opportunity

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

Subject: Progress report on simplifying Federal assistance

I have reviewed the ninety day progress report on the efforts being made by the nine Urban Affairs Council agencies and the Bureau of the Budget to simplify Federal assistance to States and communities. It is clear that the problem is a serious one, and I am encouraged by the progress made so far.

As you know, this effort will require a strong commitment by each agency head as well as by those who participate more directly in the work. Your leadership and the continued assignment of top quality personnel from your department or agency are essential to bring about the improvements planned over the next three years. I regard this program as having very high priority.

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This Administration is committed unequivocally to making the machinery of Government more responsive to the needs of the people and of the State and local governments which serve them.

I urge you to communicate your strong support of this program to your people and follow closely the progress being made within your department or agency.

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