

sensitive to the problems and pressures confronting the Congress. Thus, it is with all humility that I offer my office as the channel to further understanding between the two.

As a first step toward increased harmony, I suggest to you and to the Congressional leadership the formation of a Federal Legislative-State Executive Committee to operate explicitly in this area. The Committee could primarily function as an instrument for inter-level and inter-branch communication. It could evaluate future developments in regional cooperative ventures or compacts and it could serve as the focal point to smooth the existing snags straining Congress-State House relationships.

Certainly, I can sympathize with the nation's Senators and Congressmen who want to do a job for their constituents. But I also recognize that sometimes our Senators and Representatives have failed to accurately forecast the impact of their legislation on state government.

In the past decade, Congress has enacted measures of tremendous social significance. Important national programs have been established, but in many cases they have been financed neither fully nor fairly. We, as Governors, can applaud their vision but we cannot always agree with their ideas of implementation.

Frequently, Congress fails to predict the long-range effects of matching grants. Often states have failed to foresee the impact of Federal aid programs. What seems a Godsend, when the Federal government is paying 90% of the bill, becomes the devil's own burden when the program has tripled and the state must pay 50% of the cost of the newborn giant. This practice of widely scattering seed money and then withdrawing or curtailing support after a year or two is an invitation to disaster.

Also, there have been occasions when seemingly innocent amendments, tacked to good legislation, have cost the states millions of dollars. But perhaps the most pervasive grievance of all Governors relates to the countless specific Federally-funded programs which totally disregard the realities and priorities within the states.

An unhealthy short circuit has developed between big cities and the Federal government. This detour around state government could devastate the principle and purpose of our Federal system. There is a measure of historical justification for the situation, since state governments — prior to reapportionment — often failed to take interest in, or responsibility for, urban problems. However, this neglect has