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TOWARD '76 CONFÉRENCE SERIES	

The third in a series of Toward '76 Conferences is currently being organized. To be held sometime in late spring, the conference will focus on the delivery of governmental services in metropolitan society. The first Toward '76 Conference, April 23-25, 1972 had as its theme, "Developing an Agenda for Revitalizing the American Federal System;"

the second, held April 6-10, 1973, dealt with "The Suburban Reshaping of American Politics." Conference members will be notified as to times, place, etc., when the details are finalized. Members should watch for announcements of the Details of an Expense Grant Program for this conference.

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THE REGIONAL COMMISSION SYSTEM AS AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL VEHICLE FOR GENERATION AND TRANSFER OF POLICY TECHNOLOGY\*

Robert T. Murphy
Office of Regional Economic Coordination
U.S. Department of Commerce
June 22, 1972

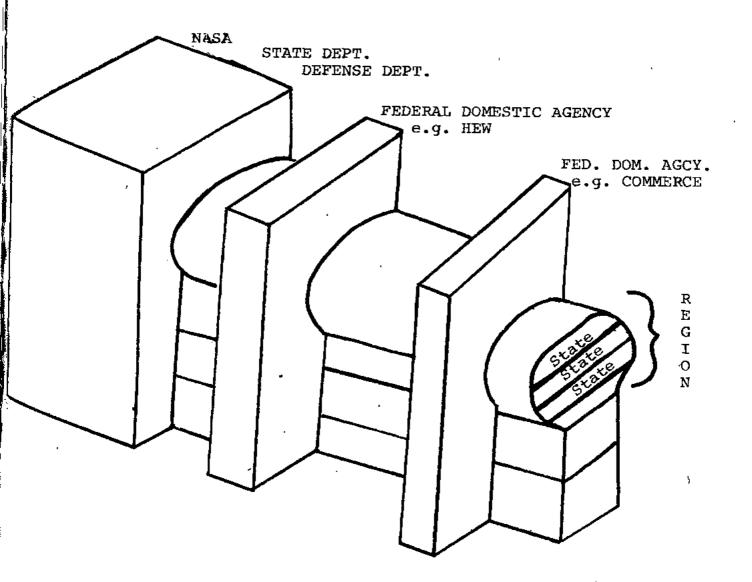
The regional commission program and its attendant matrix for Federal-State economic planning has been described as the most complex of all public systems. Yet, the very complexity may be the program's greatest strength. Public policy formulation and implementation within the United States Federal system manifests a particularly high degree of complexity. Fifty states, many appropriately called "megastates", and the District of Columbia bear primary legal responsibility for conducting the nation's public domestic programs. Thus, in 1969 86% of all public domestic spending on education and roads were accmplished by the states and their urban and other local governments.

At the regional level, states are increasingly joining together to solve problems with an interstate dimension. Nationally, the Federal Government is conducting a wide range of efforts in the domestic sector and, in most cases, Federal monies flow through state and local government in a network of hundreds of categorical grant programs. Adding to this complexity, the ten or so major Federal agencies focusing on domestic problems are themselves conglomerates, so that the real number of Federal units making plans and operating decisions in the domestic sector totals into the hundreds. Complicating and, indeed, partly causing this maze, are constitutional, legal and tax structures which collectively place most of the burden at state and local levels, but greater available resources at the Federal level.

Chart One attempts to illustrate the interrelation of state, and federal responsibilities and program functions. The "loaf of bread" is, basically, the United States, as composed of the fifty states and the District of Columbia. Each state has, or legally can have, a continuous domestic program spectrum and cedes primacy of jurisdiction to the Federal level only in such matters as defense, foreign affairs and space. On the other hand, the Federal Government is involved, through its functional departments, in a variety of specific domestic programs. These functional Federal programs and agencies resemble planes intersecting counterpart programs and agencies at the state level. Note that the Federal programatic planes do not exhaust the spectrum of state programs. This total

<sup>\*</sup>Remarks Prepared For: National Action Conference on Intergovernmental Science and Technology Policy.

CHART ONE
INTERRELATIONSHIPS OF SAMPLE FEDERAL
AGENCY PROGRAMS, STATE OPERATIONS,
AND REGIONAL COMMISSIONS



three-dimensional structure may be viewed as aggregate public legal authority, or as aggregate public output: Any program of public sector technological generation and transfer must operate within this structure.

The regional program system has been consciously designed to reflect the complexity of public policy formulation within the American Federal system. It has emerged into an interlocking net of relationships joining all the various elements that may be termed the "public system". Key actors and decision-makers in the regional program are publicly accountable officials. Evidence to date seems to argue that because of both design and mandate the regional program has produced evidence of effective performance in generating as well as transferring public technology.

The following map and Chart Two give the geographic area of the United States currently included in the system, and the general lines of Federal and state authority.

In the table of organization note primarily the involvement of both State and Federal levels of government; and the provisions for coordinating economic development planning at both national and regional levels.

Chart Three depicts aggregate linkages in the regional system as presently constructed. Again, note the real world complexity of the situation: the multitude of bureaus in a sample Federal agency, the multiple rederal agency involvement and the multitude of states and groups of states. The regional system has formal links which can cut across the entire matrix. Let me describe a few of these:

President to Secretary of Commerce and to Regional Commissions: linkages established by Federal law (the Public Works and Economic Development Act)

Regional Commission to Domestically-Focused Federal Agencies:
linkages established by the Public Works Act and amplified
by Executive Order. Primary vehicle for this linkage is the
Cabinet-level Federal Advisory Council

State to Regional: linkages established by the Public Works
Act subject to the will of the State Governors.

State to State: linkages institutionalized in the commission as a structure and by evaluation within the program

Federal Internal Departmental: linkages in the Department of Commerce, established by order of the Secretary.

a. coordination of Federal, state and local programs

r.b. study and research, including funding of demonstration

grojects;

rc. preparation of long-range regional economic development

plans

plans

plans

development of other economic plans at all levels

plans in most other economic plans at all levels including project plans, sectoral plans and state plans
e. supplemental grapt authority and, in certain cases, direct

Prior to proposing solutions for economic problems, states, the regions and the Federal Government must understand the causes of these problems. These causes can range from historical to locational to institutional to technical to resource endowment. Thus, interest and demand for a wide spectrum of problem solutions are generated at all levels within the regional program. As might be expected, program moneys for research and planning are in practice allocated to all three levels, within the program state. Regional and Federal. A small sum is retained by the Department of commerce to focus on problems either national in nature or national since they occur in most regions. Substantial funds are used by or for State government both in direct transfers to the states (called the state investment planning program) or in investigations funded through the commissions. The bulk of research and planning money is utilized by the regional commissions for problems with regional dimensions.

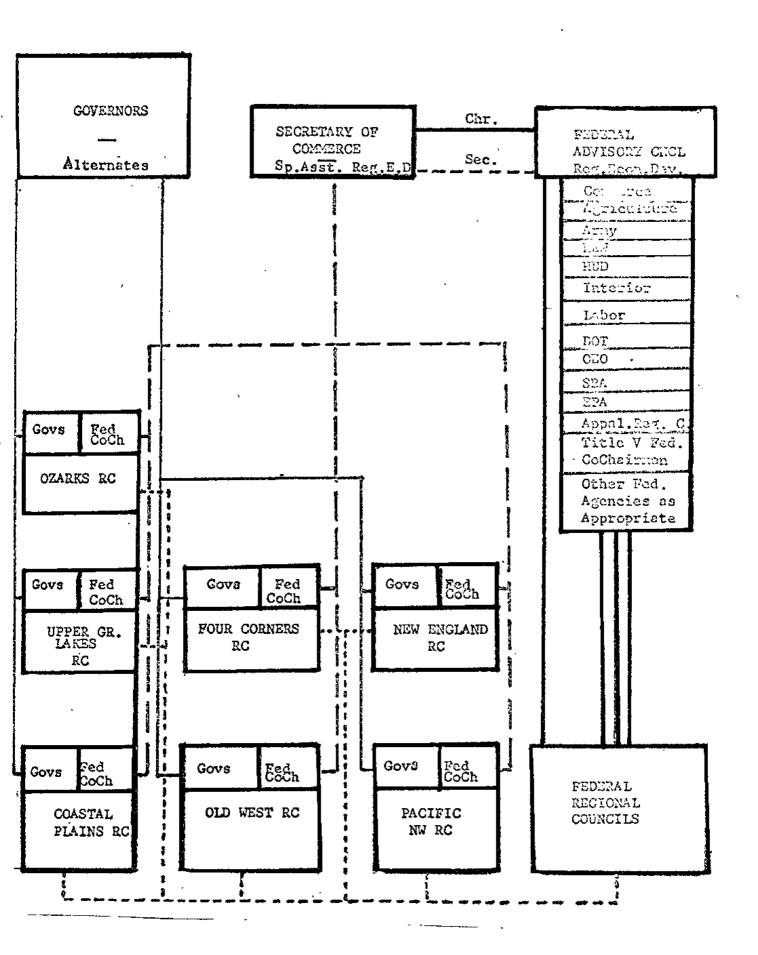
The system, then, has within itself the potential for identifixing and solving state, regional and national problems. It also
has the inherent capacity to identify the highest common denominator
for problems identified. Equally important, the system has the
capacity to transmit partial or total solutions, and to allow other
esystem levels to contribute to further problem solutions.

with the foregoing as preface, the remainder of this paper will sketch several cases where the system has allowed each component level to play its optimum role, and where technology generation and transfer appears to have been expedited by the regional network.

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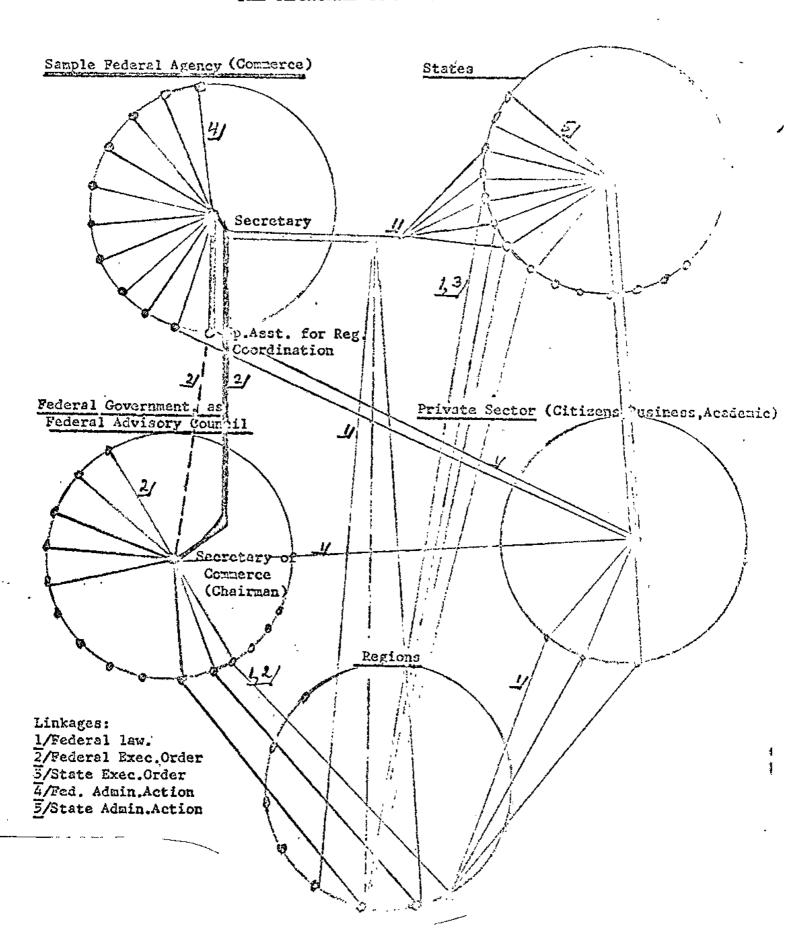
In 1966 and 1967, as the first commissions were being designated, and formed, it became obvious that the regional program had an unusual vested interest in the coastal zone areas. The New England and Coastal Plains Commissions had the Atlantic shelf and the Upper Great Lakes states adjoined a relatively shallow lake basin. At that time we also had a special concern for the economic

CHART TWO
REGIONAL COMMISSION SYSTEM



#### CHART THREE

### THE REGIONAL COMMISSION SYSTEM



development of Alaska with its vast coastline and potential sea resources. Within the Department of Commerce the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration—then the Environmental Science Services Administration—shared this interest in the potential utilization of continental shelf resources. Accordingly, the two bureaus joint-funded a series of investigations aimed at "getting a handle" on the potential of the shelf. A major portion of this research was assigned to Dr. Walter Isard, then at Harvard University.

Dr. Isard addressed himself to conflicts which could occur in the development of land and shelf resources. Thus, location of an industrial establishment on the coast would likely exert a negative impact on the economic development potential of the shelf itself. Dr. Isard quickly moved into the then new area of economic-ecologic trade offs. The results of his research have just been published in the pioneer volume, "Ecologic-Economic Analysis for Regional Development." As far as I am aware, the Isard study contains the first full and rigorous project environmental impact study ever completed.

By 1968, when the Isard research was well along, several related events were occurring. The University of Alaska, in cooperation with the Federal Field Committee, the Departments of Commerce and Interior, was conducting a major sectoral investigation of Alaskan fisheries. It was therefore arranged that the Isard team meet in Alaska to exchange findings with the University's research committee. Simultaneously in what may be one of our most humorous examples of technology transfer to date, under the auspices of the Department of Commerce, Dr. Isard and his team addressed a seminar meeting of Atlantic Coastal state planners and development directors at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia on this same subject in April 1968. As you may be aware, development directors are a pragmatic lot who can take most unkindly to economic or other academic jargon. With Dr. Isard's close cooperation, we were able to present his complex findings, followed by a very lengthy interchange session—all in English.

### CASE NO. 2

Approximately two years ago, as our regional plans were being assessed in draft stage, the states, commissions, and the Department began to identify "soft" spots in regional plans, including "soft" spots that could be expected to develop if and when plans reached the implementation stage. It became clear to all concerned that the state planning and policy-making process constitutes a critical point in state and regional planning. Consequently, the Department and three of the regional commissions pooled over \$400,000 which was in turn matched by participating state governments to fund four state-originated experiments to improve the planning and policy-making process.

In the Toyo the Department, working with the Title V Commissions, set down some simple guidelines for a series of experimental projects. The profess had to be generated in nature so that solutions generated might be made available to other user state governments. The projects themselves had to be designed by the states, although the Department and the concerned commissions did offer suggestions, the Department and the concerned commissions did offer suggestions, to be personally involved in the project, a criterion which in a project meant that the demand for policy-making improvement was emanating from him directly. Also, we looked for governors whose term of office would allow them to follow up on the findings generated.

The Arizona experiment fillustrates how the regional system can identify in one state a problem which is nationally shared. During a "dry fin" of the first draft four Corners Plan in 1970, it became clear that Arizona with its fapid growth and its unique and fragile environment was tonfronted with a serious planning problem. Unrestrained grothw could imperil some of the ecologic features which, in turn, sustained the State's growth. State government had been proceeding on a number of fronts to achieve this excanded economic development, including membership in the Four Corners Regional Commission. On the other had increased to the extent that the state economic development had increased to the extent that the state economic development effort was becoming contingent on the state economic development effort was becoming extent that the state economic development effort was becoming extent that the state economic development effort was becoming contingent on the state economic development effort was becoming extent that the state economic development effort was becoming extent that the state economic development effort was becoming extent that the state economic development effort was becoming extent that the state economic development effort was becoming extent to the deal from the standard of the Department's experimental planning project.

Department of Commerce, the State of Arizona developed a proposal to assess the relative economic/ecologic costs and benefits of alternative development investments? This effort includes and alternative development investments? This effort includes and carries further the work which Isard accomplished of Given the requirements for environmental protection and the current Federal requirements for environmental impact assessments, we in the regional program hope that the Arizona research will produce results which can be used both by the Four Corners Commission in its overall regional plan as well as by the other states of both the Region and the Nation. Both Arizona and the Department will see to it that Arizona's findings and experience receive the widest dissemination to state, regional and mational planners. Interestingly, the State of Texas is already monitoring the project closely.

Additionally, the Arizona economic-environmental trade off analysis incorporates a regional industrial allocation model

completed recently by the Four Corners Commission as part of the background for the regional plan. The model shows which industries can profitably locate in given locations. Since the Regional Plan and the other Four Corners States' plans (i.e. those of Utah, Colorado and New Mexico) build on this same location model, experience gained in the Arizona ecologic analysis should be readily transferable to the other Four Corner States and to the Region as a whole.

# CASE NO. 3'

Continuing with Arizona, one planning tool presently in use by the State Health Planning Authority is the composite computer mapping system. This system, while still simple and in an early developmental state, has a unique history of intergovernmental development and application. In 1967, the Office of Regional Development Planning in the Department of Commerce identified a possible need of displaying data geographically, and, if possible, combining economic and social data on a weighted basis. Such a system looked particularly attractive since at that time the Economic Development Administration was in process of developing a comprehensive computerized socio-economic data bank. Department therefore developed a computer mapping program on a pilot basis. The program was displayed to the regional commissions and a number of member states, with pilot testing in several regions. To make a Yong story short, under Four Corners Commission auspices the University of Utah further developed the . system, while the Commission utilized the system to prepare a variety of maps and analyses incorporated in the regional plan.

The system has also been picked up by the State of Utah and is currently being used in an innovative "futures" approach to planning, while, as I have noted, Arizona is experimenting with the system for health planning. Equally interesting, at the Federal level, the system as refined by Utah is presently being examined by the Department of the Interior to see whether it might be utilized in Interior's major forthcoming program of land and resource mapping through data received from orbiting satellite.

### CASE NO. 4

I have mentioned our concern with bottlenecks in state planning and policy making and our interest in experimenting in this problems area with cooperating state governments.

The Arizona ecologic project already described was one of these projects. Chronologically, however, the first project was generated in Georgia, under the title "Goals for Georgia". Georgia has a long and honorable planning tradition and was one of the first states to establish sub-state multi-county planning districts. Through legislation in 1967 and 1970, the role of state planning was substantially upgraded and the Bureau of State

Planning was charged with producing a biennial state plan addressing itself to state objectives, alternative state strategies and their funding implications.

Early last year, the first such biennial plan had just been produced by the State Government. Before implementing such a plan, the Governor wanted the answer to a very basic question: Was this plan, even though produced by the State government, in accord with the real value structure of the Georgia electorate? In retrospect, it may now be said that the Georgia electorate favored major changes in government priorities, even to the point where the population would support new state programs, necessitating new state taxes. In short, the State government plan had not reflected a shift in popular values. "Goals for Georgia" enabled the Governor to make this judgment.

The project was designed by Georgia State Government, with input of ideas both from the Coastal Plains Commission and the Department of Commerce. The project was launched in spring 1971, ultimately obtained input from some six thousand cities and has just been completed.

for a major shift of government program emphasis, in the state. Accordingly, it provides common solid ground for Executive and LegisTative branches of Georgia State Government to effect necessary legal and administrative actions to respond to the citizen mandate. "Goals for Georgia" has demonstrated that planning must be much more than a series of exercises in program budgeting, administrative coordination, in economics or other techniques. To be Valid, planning must accurately reflect the value system of the population concerned; planning must be profoundly political in a broad, non-partisan sense.

We expect that the final report will be received in the immediate future and we will give project results maximum dissemination through the "regional system".

## CASE NO. 5

The State of Utah is conducting our third experiment in planning and policy-making. Like Georgia, Utah suspected that traditional planning methods of from economic projections, to administrative coordination to PPBS -- may, unaided, lack the ability to grapple with the real future. Utah State Government today is concerned that the Utah of 1972, with all its needs, opportunities and problems, was not foreseen by State Government in 1952. Utah of today is the result of what is termed "exogenous factors", that is, factors not foreseen within the framework of the prevailing methodologies. The "Utah Process" is an attempt by state government to identify the major economic changes which might

occur within, the state in the next 10 years, to assess their cross impacts, and thus to establish the five most probable "state futures." The Governor and the State Planning Office have sat down with the state government departments to plan for alternative courses of action within the context to these possible "futures." This process is quite forcefully introducing flexibility into the planning processes of state government departments and bringing about much closer interdepartmental working relationships. It should also go a long way toward enabling the government and people of Utah to plan, for the real Utah of the 1980's. Utah's experience in this, project should interest many other states.

In conducting this project, Utah is utilizing several tools transferred through the "regional system." The "futures" approach to planning came to the State of Utah both from the academic world as well as from concept papers prepared by the Department of Commerce. The econometric model being used is simply the state portion of the Four Corners Plan model, expanded to include the non-regional northwest corner of the state. Another tool being used to plot economic development and interactions is the computer mapping system, noted previously.

### CASE NO. 6

My final example involves the area of Federal, regional, state and local data and how the Department of Commerce, the Ozarks Regional Commission, its component states as well as the State of Connecticut, are working or plan to work together in developing data systems for economic development and other governmental purposes.

Back in 1966, it was apparent that public investments of all types—from local to state to Federal—were critical determinants to economic growth. With the encouragement of the then Bureau of the Budget, the Department conducted a feasibility study in New England, the Ozarks and the Upper Great Dakes states to determine whether an overall public investment data system could be constructed. The study showed that such a system was possible. As a second stage, the Ozarks regional commission, with partial funding and manpower supplied by the Department, began work on a pilot system. As work continued, the commission began to recognize the need for a broader data system which would serve multiple objectives over and above the original purpose of tracking public investments.

The year 1971 saw dramatic gains in the information system, now renamed RRMIS for "Regional Resources Management Information" System." The system continues its original purpose of tracking public investment data on all public levels, including the Federal. It also now contains full data profiles for each community in the region so as to assist the Commission and the States both in economic analysis as well as in identifying suitable private investors and investments for these communities. Most important, the system is being designed to incorporate a range of decision

analysis models to assess the impact of alternative investment strategies. While the RRMIS is still in process of completion, the four state governments in the Ozarks Commission are already using this system to store and retrieve state data. The economies of scale in this effort are obvious.

Now, let me turn for a minute to Connecticut, the fourth of the states where the Title v program is findhicing an experiment in state planning and policy-making. A major element of Connecticut's policy Bottleneck is straightforward, the Governor needs an effective data system. Fortunately, many of the key elements of a system are already in place. Central computer hardware is on hand. State agencies are producing the type of data needed to feed the system. But the system needs much improvement. Sufficient data isn't entering the central system; key programs such as one to track public investment is facking, equipment is underutilized; manpower training is needed. The system is therefore of limited use to policy makers including, most particularly, the Governor. As part of our project Connecticut has brought on board some of the top public data consultants in the country and it looks as though the State should have a first-class data system operational within the year.

When the time is ripe, probably a few months from now, we hope to put Connecticut and New England Commission officials in touch with their counterparts in the Ozarks. We are going to ask them all to assess each other's products in terms of mutual experience. But most of all, we hope that the interchange will result in the substantial transfer of ideas, programs and methodology.

Both the Connecticut project as well as the Ozarks RRMIS have already received extensive exposure at the Federal Level. The Connecticut management improvement project was in broad outline recommended by a Federal Technical Assistance team under OMB leadership which visited the state in early 1971. The Department of Housing and Urban Development has joined with the Department of Commerce, the New England Regional Commission and State Government in funding the project.

With regard to the RRMIS, system design was described in detail in the draft Ozarks regional plan which was circulated to member agencies of the Federal Advisory Council in May 1971. RRMIS and other plan elements were assessed both orally and in writing by the FAC members in a review session in Washington on July 20, 1971, and the proceedings of this meeting have been published by the Department of Commerce. RRMIS is further described in the final Ozarks Regional Plan, which is currently receiving extensive distribution within the Federal Government through the Federal Advisory Council mechanism.

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### Conclusion

While the Title V "system" was set up to facilitate joint planning by Federal and State Governments, the coordinating matrix established to accomplish this objective apparently is acting effectively to generate and transfer basic and applied planning know-how. Economics of scale are obviously inherent within the system. Federal, regional and state levels in the system can identify shared problems, with funding available at various levels to fund the prototype solution wherever it may best be researched. The system is very literally constructed of partici-pating "client co-sponsors" so that an appropriate host or subject for the particular investigation is normally present and willing.
And, of course, the combined rederal Commission-State pressure to identify and/or rationalize economic development decisions tends to drive all levels of the system to advance the state of the art in planning. Most important, from the viewpoint of economies of scale, regional and national markets for knowledge developed are available through the system. Institutional means are also available for transmitting this knowledge to potential end-users. Federal, regional and state staffs do exist and do interchange technologies. The Federal Cochairmen do meet regularly, both with each other and with officers of the Department of Commerce, to exchange experiences. Reports are crosscirculated. Also, beginning last year, the Department of Commerce has begun a series of national meetings to bring together state, commission and Federal personnel within-the system. Last Fall, for the first time, all 20 alternates, that is, the Governors' aides, from the then five commissions met in common conference here in Washington and future meetings are expected to take place. The Federal Advisory Council machinery does operate -- Commissions deal with FAC member agencies both in the regions and at the Washington level. At the Federal level the Plan documents and the face-toface Council meetings are primary vehicles for exchanging know-how. how.

I would conclude simply that on the basis of demonstrated performance, the regional system should be carefully scrutinized as an action program capable of technological generation and transfer at multiple levels of American Government.

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### INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS\*

Ronald M. Burns Institute of Intergovernmental Relations Queen's University - Kingston, Ontario

This seminar is designed to examine and attempts to access various forces and influences that operate on intergovernmental institutions and practices within a federal system. The main attention will be paid to particular aspects of the question as they have developed with the Canadian federation.

While grouped in a general topical relationship these discussions do not follow any historical sequence or pattern. Where appropriate the sequence of, and time devoted to, the various topics may be varied.

There is no required text but students will find it useful to have the following readily available:

"Wheare, K. C.

Rerry, Moore & Beech

Meekison, J. P. (ed.)

Federal Government, 4th ed, Oxford, 1963.

The Financing of Canadian Federation, Canadian Tax Foundation, Toronto, 1966.

Canadian Federalism; Myth or Reality, Toronto; Methuen, 1968 or 1972.

Report: Intergovernmental Liaison on Fiscal & Economic Matters, Queen's Printer, Ottawa, 1969.

Burns, R. M. (ed.) One Country or Two, Montreal:

'McGill-Queen's Press, 1971.

Reference to the 'Debates' of the House of Commons and in some cases provincial legislatures can be useful. Important factual information is to be found in the Canadian Tax Foundation's two publications, The National Finances, published annually, and Provincial Finances published biennially.

Burns, R. M., The Evolving Structure of Canadian Government is a useful brief introduction to the subject.

Continuing reference to current events is important.

\*Politics 437/837 - Institute of Intergovernmental Relations, Queens University - Kingston, Ontario.

#### Course Outline & Suggested Readings 3. .. (a starred item is of particular importance). i j -- -j 41 mg 30g 30g

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Abrief examination of the form, nature and purpose of federalism.

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