6-19-1949

Memorandum for Governors' Conference: intergovernmental relations

Strom Thurmond

Follow this and additional works at: https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/strom

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyright law (Title 17, U.S. code). Use of these materials beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law.

For additional rights information, please contact Kirstin O'Keefe (kokeefe [at] clemson [dot] edu)

For additional information about the collections, please contact the Special Collections and Archives by phone at 864.656.3031 or via email at cuscl [at] clemson [dot] edu

Recommended Citation
Thurmond, Strom, "Memorandum for Governors' Conference: intergovernmental relations" (1949). Strom Thurmond Collection, Mss100. 733.
https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/strom/733

For additional information about the collection, please contact the Special Collections and Archives by phone at 864.656.3031 or via email at cuscl [at] clemson [dot] edu

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Manuscript Collections at TigerPrints. It has been accepted for inclusion in Strom Thurmond Collection, Mss100 by an authorized administrator of TigerPrints. For more information, please contact kokeefe@clemson.edu.
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Today, the national government bears approximately 20% of the cost of state government. In turn, more than a third of the cost of local government is borne by the states. This trend is weakening local responsibility, curtailing local control, undermining democratic processes, and concentrating power in Washington.

It is clear that state and local governments must assume a greater degree of responsibility for needed public services, and that they must therefore have access to additional sources of revenue. State governments must cease relying on the Federal government to do things which can best be done on a state level.

To accomplish these objectives, and to strengthen our Federal system in each of its three levels, it will be necessary to coordinate federal, state, and local tax structures to reduce duplication, to induce economy, and to stabilize taxation and administration of services at their proper levels.

The most tangible attempt to approach this problem is represented by (pending) Senate Bill S.810, "To establish a national commission on intergovernmental relations." This bill, which is approved by the Council of State Governments, provides for a comprehensive study of federal-state relations leading to recommendations to Congress, to be made not later than February 1,
1952. It provides for a balanced, non-political commission which would very probably make an important contribution toward a solution of the problem.

SENATE BILL S. 810

"To Establish a National Commission on Intergovernmental Relations"

Seeks to:

1) find ways to eliminate overlapping, competition, and confusion in federal and state fiscal and tax relations;

2) co-ordinate federal and state functions;

3) allocate services properly among different levels of government;

4) reduce governmental costs;

5) develop co-operative policies and procedures.

Sets up a commission: (14)

1) 5 appointed by President, with 2 office holders and 3 private citizens; not more than 3 from any one political party.

2) 2 Senators appointed by Senate President

3) 2 Representatives appointed by Speaker.
4) 2 appointed by President from 4 names submitted by Council of State Governments.

5) 2 appointed by President from 4 city officials' names submitted by Municipal Association, etc.

6) 1 appointment by President from 2 county officials' names submitted by Association of County Officials.

Duties of commission:

1) to study these subjects--
   a) history of inter-governmental relations
   b) allocation of governmental functions
   c) geography as it affects the problem
   d) encroachment of federal on state, and state on local.

2) to report to President & Congress on findings and recommendations, by February 1, 1952.

This Act seems a desirable and necessary step toward the solution of the problem of intergovernmental fiscal relations. The tendency of local governments to depend on the
State, and the State to depend on the Federal, and the Federal Government to widen its tax spheres is bringing the nation closer to centralization of power. A competent study of Federal-State-Local fiscal relations can lead to coordination of tax structures, so as to give local governments the maximum opportunity to finance (and thus control) themselves.

************

The report of the Hoover reorganization commission recommends: 1) a reappraisal of federal-state-local tax and fiscal relations; 2) tax revision and coordination; 3) budgeting and administration of Grants-in-Aid on Federal and state levels as other federal and state funds are administered; 4) clarification and systemization of Grants-in-Aid; and 5) a federal-state relations agency somewhat similar to the S.810 commission.