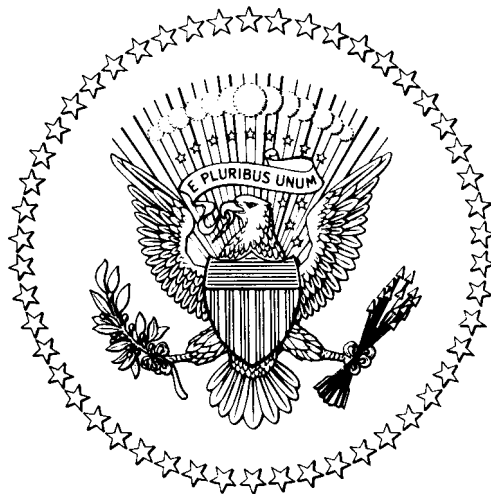


The original documents are located in Box 13, folder “White House Public Forums on Domestic Policy Report (1)” of the Richard B. Cheney Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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WHITE HOUSE
PUBLIC FORUMS
ON
DOMESTIC POLICY
1975
A COMPENDIUM



Domestic Council
Executive Office of the President

THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL

Established in 1970 in the Executive Office of the President
for the purpose of recommending and coordinating domestic
policy for the President

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James M. Cannon, Assistant to the President and Executive
Director of the Domestic Council

THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

December 15, 1975

Dear Mr. President:

This letter transmits to you a report of the findings resulting from recent Public Forums on Domestic Policy.

During the past two and a half months, the Domestic Council, at your direction, has held a series of Public Forums across the country to explore public concerns and recommendations on domestic policy.

Taken as a whole, these Public Forums, together with hundreds of statements submitted to the Council by individuals and organizations from all across the nation, represent a profoundly moving portrait of America today -- an America whose people are troubled yet hopeful, hard-pressed yet vigorous, and, above all, faithful to the democratic process.

Consider the broad spectrum of opinion represented at these Forums: from welfare recipients to mayors and governors; from Indians, the clergy, blacks, Spanish-speaking Americans, housewives and senior citizens to industrialists, labor leaders, bank presidents, environmentalists, doctors, lawyers, state and local officials. And many more.

The common thread that ran through this diversity was an abiding faith in the process conceived by the men who founded this nation 200 years ago.

We went to the people to listen to their words -- voices raised in the belief that they would be heard and that, somehow, it would make a difference. "Almost makes one think the U. S. Government is interested in our problems," a woman from Cave Junction, Oregon, wrote regarding the Forum process.

We heard criticisms. And complaints. And frustration.

We heard distressing stories of individual tragedy and deprivation.

But we also heard stories of success, hundreds of them -- success in setting up rural health clinics in the arid southern region of Texas, success in finding jobs for the unemployed in Pittsburgh, and success in delivering hot meals to the elderly in Appalachia. Time and again, such stories of success were cited as examples for others to follow in solving similar problems. And they were cited to help the Federal government respond in ways that best serve the people.

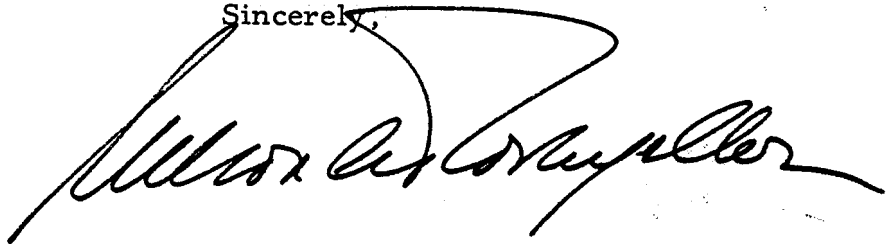
In many cases, of course, people wanted more money for their programs. But in the main, what was called for from the Federal government was leadership, understanding, clearer policies, simpler rules, and program consolidation. Very specific ideas were suggested, and they are summarized in the volume which is being transmitted with this letter.

This volume contains a summary of the submitted oral and written statements, separated by subject matter, for each of the six Forums, together with a "Summary of Findings" which sets forth the most frequently expressed concerns and recommendations. The volume is the product of a meticulous reading of over 12,000 pages of submitted written material and transcripts from more than 90 hours of public testimony. Altogether, it represents the participation of more than 6,000 individuals.

The volume represents an unbiased effort to document the views of all the participants, quoting extensively from them where such quotes distill their views or recommendations. Included in the summaries are appendices which contain Forum agendas and participant lists. All of this material is being incorporated into the Domestic Council's review process.

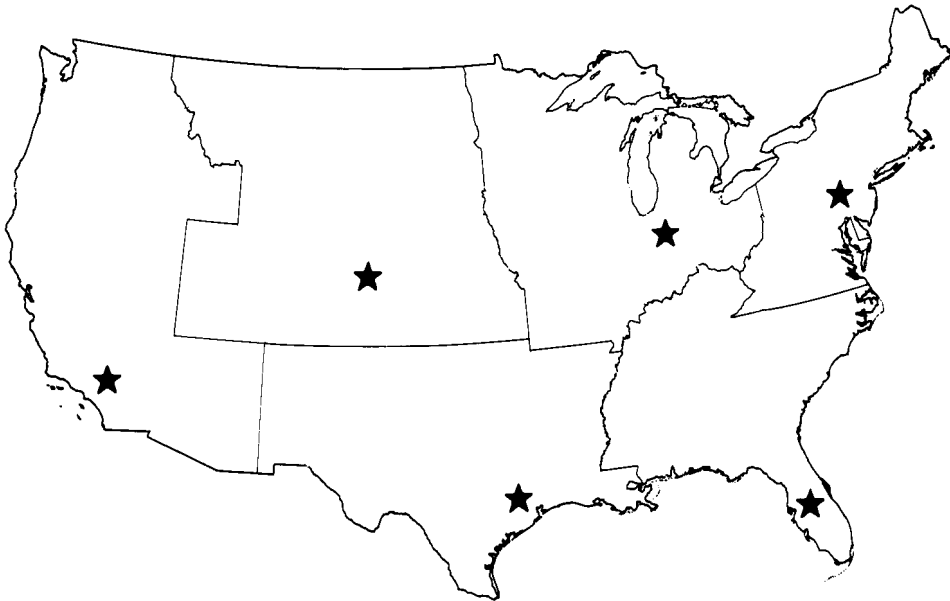
Mr. President, I come away from this experience buoyed by what I perceive to be a note of optimism that runs through this land today, especially among those who were touched by the Forum process. People of widely differing views and backgrounds came to these Forums and submitted constructive ideas to a process they trust -- the democratic process. The note of optimism that I hear is sounded by a free people who know that their voices are heard and that they, themselves, can make a difference in how we, as a nation, will live and grow in our country's third century.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexander Haig". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
The President of the United States
Washington, D. C.

WHITE HOUSE
PUBLIC FORUM
ON
DOMESTIC POLICY



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1975

OCTOBER • NOVEMBER • DECEMBER

Domestic Council
Executive Office of the President

REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT

WHITE HOUSE PUBLIC FORUMS ON DOMESTIC POLICY SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

On July 24, 1975, President Ford directed Vice President Rockefeller and the Domestic Council to conduct a comprehensive review of Federal domestic programs and policies.

As a part of this review, he instructed the Vice President to conduct a series of hearings throughout the country in order to seek the public's recommendations and ideas which could be incorporated in the Domestic Council review of domestic policy.

Subsequently, six Public Forums on Domestic Policy were held over a ten-week period. The following cities were selected to represent a broad geographical base, including each of the fifty states and all U. S. territories:

Denver, Colorado	October 21, 1975
Tampa, Florida	October 29, 1975
Austin, Texas	November 11, 1975
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	November 18, 1975
Indianapolis, Indiana	November 25, 1975
Los Angeles, California	December 9, 1975

The Forums focused on four general areas of domestic policy: economic growth, resource development, social policy and community building. Persons with recognized experience and expertise on subjects within these general policy areas were invited to present testimony.

The witnesses, representing state and local government, labor, business, interest groups, recipients of Federal programs, and private citizens were selected from recommendations submitted to the Federal Regional Council in each area. All witnesses, observers, and the general public were invited to speak at the Forums and to submit written statements. Statements submitted in writing were given equal consideration in the domestic policy review process. Members of the Congress from each region were advised of the purpose of the Forums and invited to attend.

Each Forum was divided into two parts: a plenary morning session devoted to a discussion of the four major issue areas:

1. Economy, jobs, inflation and regulations
2. Resource development, energy and the environment
3. Social policy, health, income security, and services
4. Community building, housing, transportation and intergovernmental relations

Separate afternoon sessions were devoted to each of these issues.

The Vice President chaired the morning session with a panel consisting of Cabinet members and other Federal Administrators. Two witnesses presented five-minute testimony on one of the four issues. Approximately half of the time was reserved for comments and suggestions from the general public by means of microphones placed throughout the audience.

The four simultaneous meetings in the afternoon continued the discussion of the four major policy areas. These meetings were chaired by Cabinet members who were supported by other appropriate Federal officials. Again, witnesses presented testimony and responded to questions from the panel. Invited observers and the general public then joined in the discussion.

A summary of each Forum has been compiled and submitted to the President. Suggestions and recommendations contained in these documents have been incorporated in the Domestic Council's review process.

Of the 6,000 persons attending the six Forums, over 1,500 submitted oral or written statements. The total amount of testimony received exceeded 12,000 pages.

The public reaction to the Forums was favorable. Although many witnesses were critical of government, the overwhelming majority expressed appreciation for the opportunity to inject their opinions into the decision making process.

One overriding message came through in each of the Forums: people are concerned about the proliferation of Federal red tape which prevents the government from delivering its promised services. This problem was described succinctly by the Governor of Washington when he said, "Give us the performance you expect. Let us do the task and be measured on the results; not on how well we followed instructions. . . In other words. . .get off our backs."

The Governor of Colorado commented on the problem by saying, "All too often we find that the Federal Government for all its sincerity is the problem."

This concern was reiterated by the National Coordinator of the Task Force on Older Women who presented a new set of ten commandments to guide domestic policy which included, "Thou shalt not program for failure: You pass fine titled laws costing billions, then tie them up with layers of bureaucracy, so that little money is used to address the problems the laws were designed to alleviate."

Among the concerns repeatedly expressed were:

- High employment and inflation, excessive government spending and lagging economy
- The lack of Congressional action on a comprehensive energy policy
- The need to achieve environmental protection along with economic growth and job opportunities
- The inequities in social programs and the bureaucratic red tape of the Federal government in administering them
- The rising cost of health care and the fact that we do not have a comprehensive health policy or system
- The excessive and ever-changing Federal regulations of business and state and local governments

In summary, people feel that Federal red tape, excessive bureaucracy, and duplication are inhibiting creativity and decision making throughout American society -- the basic element of our Nation's success.

The following digest of oral and written testimony summarizes the opinions, ideas and recommendations most frequently expressed throughout the Forums. This digest is only a synopsis and should not be considered as an all-inclusive discussion of the material reviewed through the Forums; a more comprehensive summary on each of the six Forums has also been prepared.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

In the area of economic recovery, witnesses were unanimous in defining unemployment and inflation as the areas of greatest concern.

Unemployment Must Be Alleviated By Means of Expanding Job Opportunities

Pointing to "the cancer of joblessness that is devastating the nation," witnesses called for immediate Federal action. Their recommendations included:

- Public service jobs as temporary relief.
- Tax credits for private businesses that hire and train the unemployed
- Simplified regulation of private industry
- Expansion of capital formation and investment
- Encouragement of science and technological development

Spokesmen from the public and private sectors emphasized the acute levels of unemployment in the housing and construction industries. Urging that immediate steps be taken to increase housing starts, witnesses called for the release of federal housing funds, tax incentives for capital investment, and savings incentives for consumers. Controlled home mortgage rates were also strongly advocated.

Many participants suggested that payments made through the Unemployment Insurance Program be redirected towards job-producing programs. However, in view of national haste to alleviate unemployment, local officials urged evaluation of the long-term effects of certain job-creation programs. One mayor urged against establishing jobs that do not add to productivity or increase the tax base. He emphasized that "the standard for public service employment should be the need for services."

Government Must Ease Inflation by Curtailing Federal Expenditures

Consumers indicated their willingness to curtail spending if government would do the same. In offering a list of ten commandments for Federal policy, one witness told officials, "Thou shalt not design painful social policy for everyone but thyselfes. . .If belt-tightening is in order, those in public office should lead the way."

One participant summarized the majority opinion in his recommendation for the Federal budget: "Balance it."

Regulations Which Handicap Free Enterprise Should Be Eliminated

"Regulatory over-kill" was blamed for:

- blocking productivity gains
- thwarting business expansion
- increasing unemployment
- aggravating inflation

It was noted that the burden of bureaucratic red tape resulting from excessive regulations eventually falls on the consumer. One businessman observed that "the costs and losses of time and money mandated by the mass of government guidelines are reflected in. . .every price tag printed in America."

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency were heavily criticized for excessive and conflicting regulatory requirements; the same charge was directed at the Security and Exchange Commission, Federal Trade Commission and Small Business Administration.

Participants urged that programs be guided by Federal performance standards, not by administrative requirements. As a first step toward trimming regulations, one mayor suggested a Federal-level counterpart to his latest addition to City Hall: an Office of Red Tape Cutting.

Local Government Must Be Given The Authority To Administer Federally Funded Programs

Contributors qualified their high praise for the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act by recommending that spending be determined locally. They stressed that state and local governments can better direct funds to the needs of specific groups of unemployed according to demographic factors.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Forum contributors placed great emphasis on issues relating to resource development. The opinion of the majority was clear:

The Country Lacks The Well-Defined Energy Policy Necessary for Developing Domestic Resources

The lack of clear guidelines for the use of existing supplies, conservation, and resource development was criticized.

Many testified that in the absence of national policy, present energy supplies have been unwisely allocated. An overwhelming majority of the contributors urged the deregulation of natural gas prices at the well-head in order that the cost and use of natural gas might be determined by free market conditions.

Witnesses promoted a Federal energy policy that would guide development of new resources. They underlined the need for systematic exploration of potential energy sources. Individual spokesmen elaborated on the possibilities of numerous resources: coal, oil, nuclear, solar, off-shore drilling, solid waste, bio-mass, wind, water, and geothermal. The high-risk, capital-intensive nature of energy exploration prompted many industrialists and consumers to advocate Federal incentives that would enable private industry to participate in new projects.

Federal Regulations Must Be Streamlined

The voluminous paperwork imposed by regulatory requirements was repeatedly criticized. One businessman voiced a common concern when he objected to the "chaotic confusion of conflicting, contradictory, costly, and confounding regulations."

The environmental impact statement process drew heavy criticism. Witnesses objected to the amount of time and money spent on statement preparation and to the lengthy review period that causes delays in construction. Individual spokesmen described the result of suspended projects: workers lose jobs, machinery stands idle, and inventories of unused building supplies accumulate.

Among those dissatisfied were local officials, who said:

The time lag places the surrounding communities in a position of indecision. The cities are unable to undertake construction planning, financing and construction in areas of social and economic improvements until after the fact, therefore, we are always running behind. Playing a catch-up game with the percentages of growth we are facing is a losing battle.

Industrialists and conservationists questioned the accuracy of information submitted in impact statements. Many felt that the requirement of a statement in the early states of a project discourages investigation into new energy sources. For example, individuals involved in geothermal exploration stated that accurate impact statements could be submitted only after certain technical data could be obtained by operating a geothermal project.

Some witnesses indicated that the personnel who review impact statements are unqualified. One spokesman outlined the complexities of site evaluation, saying that field personnel with traditional geological training must also be familiar with development economics, land planning, and urban studies in order to make comprehensive assessments.

Environmental Goals Should Be Balanced Against Economic Imperatives

Many participants advocated resource exploration and development as a means of creating jobs, citing the number of people needed for the energy extracting process, for building facilities, and for providing services to energy communities.

Witnesses felt that it was possible to achieve efficient industrial production and to realize environmental objectives. It was urged that contradictory policies be realigned. One power company official noted that EPA thermal pollution policies prohibit the development of man-made lakes in which to cool the recycled water used in power plant operations. Consequently, his company has been forced to construct a cooling tower. Towers cost more than lakes, he explained, and are single-purpose facilities. The spokesman summarized his point by saying, "I have yet to see anyone successfully swim, fish or water-ski in a cooling tower."

Conservation Must be Continuous

Although they favored Federal policy guidelines, local government officials reiterated the view that conservation programs are best implemented on a local level. Individual spokesmen emphasized the importance of conservation measures as the only "immediate answer" to energy shortages, and recommended that local efforts be directed at two objectives:

- Reduced consumption
- Greater efficiency in the performance of motor vehicles, household appliances and heating systems

Participants urged the development of better mass transit and rail systems in order to curtail automobile use in metropolitan areas. Many advocated mandatory fuel economy performance standards for automobiles. In the housing area, some participants called for tax credits on all types of home insulation such as siding and storm windows.

Conservation spokesmen pointed to the precarious state of the ecosystem in urging that conservation efforts "be taken seriously." Individuals discussed the problems of maintaining air and water quality, wilderness and recreational areas, and fertile agriculture land. Many called for sound forest management, coastal reclamation and flood plain projects.

Water resource development was heavily emphasized. Coastal residents in particular called for careful evaluation of the onshore effects of offshore drilling. They asked that local citizenries be included in planning, reviewing, and monitoring offshore projects.

Many witnesses focused on agriculture concerns, urging the maintenance of high fertility standards, affordable fuel costs for farm equipment, and available water supplies for irrigation. Farmers expressed the desire to participate in regulatory decisions concerning fertilizer and pesticide use.

The Role of State and Local Government Must Be Authoritative

Among additional issues which concerned participants was the impact of energy development projects on nearby communities. Local officials feared additional demands on municipal services and facilities; planners expressed the hope that future development would be wisely located and constructed. Some participants explained that energy development jeopardized their existing homes. Recognizing the fact that vast coal resources lie under her reservation, one North Dakota tribeswoman said "We are afraid if you mine our coal, where can we live?"

Numerous local officials called for federal provision of "front-end monies" to assist communities with the necessary implementation of services. Others suggested that revenue sharing funds might be used for this purpose.

One urban studies spokesman suggested that national officials might consider establishing a direct relationship between community development planning requirements and the need for energy conservation. He proposed that in order to obtain assistance under the Community Development Act, communities must submit applications which include specific proposals for energy conservation.

Improved information exchange was cited as a prerequisite to a more effective federal-state energy partnership. Witnesses pointed to the energy and conservation education programs currently being conducted in individual communities by schools and citizen organizations, and emphasized that citizens can decide energy issues wisely only if they are informed.

Federally sponsored conferences were suggested as a means to advise localities of pending energy developments and projects. In promoting this plan, one New Englander noted, "We recognize the area's dependence on imported petroleum, but we cannot truthfully assure the integrity of our coastal resources without knowing what to expect."

Without exception, witnesses asked to participate in decisions regarding resource development and the environment. One individual spoke for many when he explained that his concern for the environment was the result of living "close to the land."

SOCIAL POLICY

Welfare and health topics dominated the discussions of social policy. Reform in both areas was declared mandatory.

Welfare Policy Should Guarantee a Minimum Income For Those Who Need It

It was widely agreed that welfare reform should:

- Provide work incentives
- Establish uniform eligibility standards
- Consolidate assistance programs
- Streamline outdated regulations

Witnesses offered widely varied plans to achieve these goals. A significant number called for federalization of welfare, saying that state tax bases cannot support current payment levels. Other participants recommended that all benefits be paid in cash. The majority recognized the necessity for a federal-state partnership in providing funds.

One Governor exhibited the three-volume set of eligibility guidelines which state welfare workers must consult before authorizing benefits. Inconsistent policies were blamed for the "state to state" bargain hunting that currently occurs among welfare recipients.

There was general agreement that those able to work be encouraged to do so; welfare must not serve as a "permanent seat on the gravy train," noted one spokesman. It was strongly urged that the government sponsor job-training programs and closely monitor their results.

National Health Insurance Is Necessary

Citing escalating health care costs and inadequate service provision, the majority of contributors called for some form of national health insurance. Recommendations regarding financing and administration differed: most contributors advised a partnership between the public and private sectors that presently administer these services. This partnership would establish standards for coverage and administer financing.

Witnesses focused on inefficient hospital management as a major cause of inflated health care costs. It was noted that many hospitals could trim their budgets by eliminating surplus beds and unused support facilities. Certain individuals suggested applying a professional standards review process to all hospital operations.

Participants expressed qualified approval of the programs authorized by the National Health Planning Act. One witness explained, "If these programs are to control waste, duplication, and unnecessary services, they should not be predestined for failure by an insufficiency of funds." Many individuals expressed the hope that the Act would permit a greater local role in administration, noting that the Department of Health, Education and Welfare directly controls many areas of coverage.

Programs of preventive medicine were strongly promoted. Witnesses concerned with the health problems in inner cities called for projects that would familiarize residents with available services. It was urged that the government continue to operate clinics for the detection of sickle-cell anemia.

Social Services Must Be Consolidated

It was noted that clients must "scramble from one headquarters to another" in order to obtain various forms of social service assistance. The majority of contributors favored the consolidation of application procedures and client services produced by:

- vocational rehabilitation
- drug and alcohol abuse programs
- family services
- mental health care
- care for the aged

Discriminatory Practices Must Be Eliminated

Individual witnesses called for stringent enforcement of equal rights for minorities, the aged, and youth. The majority of those who addressed discrimination focused on sex-bias. It was noted that women have difficulty obtaining credit and loans; the homemaker receives no social security credits for her work. In urging support for the Equal Rights Amendment, one witness commented, "the problem is not to fit human needs into the status quo, but to change the status quo to fit human needs."

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Housing concerns predominated in the hearings on community building.

Comprehensive Housing Policy Must Address The Problems Of Supply, Quality, And Rehabilitation

Witnesses pointed to numerous areas where housing shortages are acute:

- The southeast, due to the rate of population growth
- Inner cities
- Indian reservations
- Underdeveloped rural areas

Numerous witnesses focused on recommendations for the southeast and southwest where shortages are pronounced. They urged that unfinished housing projects be resumed in order to provide homes and jobs.

Pointing to recent population growth, local officials asked that federal funds be allocated according to strictly current census figures.

The majority of urban spokesmen promoted rehabilitation of urban dwellings. "We have subsidized the suburbs. Now, we must re-invest in the cities," said one participant. "Recycling residences" was advised for several reasons:

- rehabilitation is less expensive in new construction
- existing neighborhoods can be prevented

-- urban deterioration that results from
suburban relocation is checked

Proponents of rehabilitation called for tax credits on housing repairs and incentives for banks to underwrite home-improvement loans.

Urban And Conservation Needs Require Improved Mass Transit Systems

Witnesses urged the extension of present metropolitan services and the construction of transportation networks in rural areas. Individual spokesmen recommended the completion of the interstate highway system, federal support for railroads, and clearer objectives in the regulation of the trucking, airline, and shipping industries. A member of the Philadelphia Bicycle Coalition requested improved bicycle access to bridges, trains, and workplaces.

Community Planning and Development Programs Must Incorporate Local Participation

The overwhelming majority of the participants praised Community Development Block Grants, but urged that Federal administration of all categorical grants be kept to a minimum. Witnesses emphasized that states are "in a position to immediately respond to local needs" in allocating funds and evaluating results.

It was urged that states be trusted to assess the needs of their communities. One witness elaborated:

Decisions all too often are made in the giant bureaucracies in Washington or in our state capitols with little or no regard for the feelings of the local communities upon which these decisions will impact. We are a people of neighborhoods, not impersonal regions.

She believed that to correct this situation, "we must begin letting ideas and priorities perk up from the bottom rather than drip down from the top."

This view was underscored with respect to the use of revenue sharing funds. It was urged that state and local governments be allowed to focus spending on local needs. Witnesses explained that funds which are federally earmarked for construction cannot be diverted to improve deficient human services. Many contributors also advocated local administration of federal funds for education.

* * * * *

In his directive to the Domestic Council, the President asked its members to "seek out the best advice possible from throughout the country to enable us to develop the means to use our domestic resources in ways that most respond to the needs of the people."

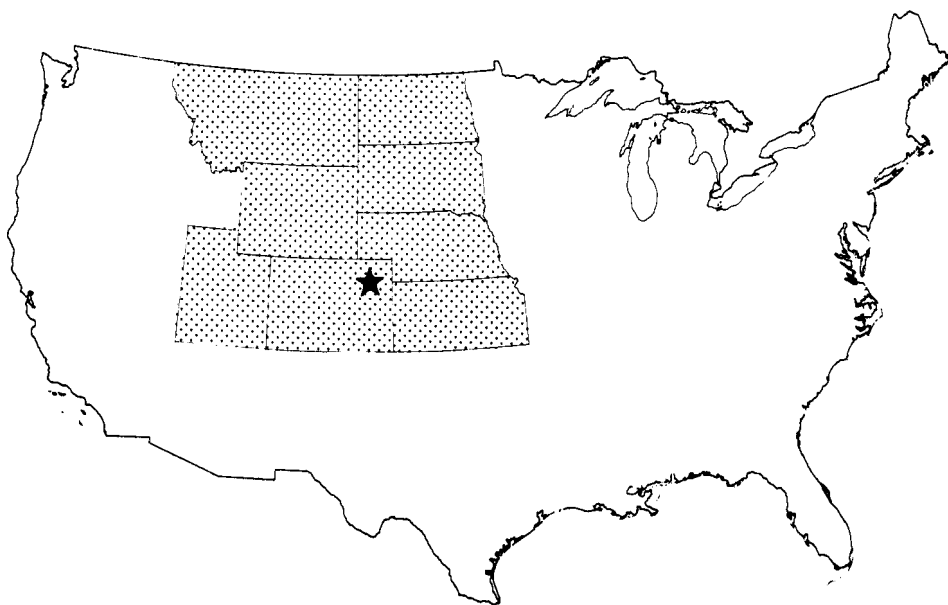
The Council, through the Forum process, has probed the central domestic issues of our time -- economic growth, resource development, social policy and community building. During this process, approaches to solving these urgent problems were discovered which do not call for vast, open-ended spending programs, more government intervention, and bigger bureaucracies.

While many Forum participants sought more funds for certain programs, what was most often called for from the Federal government was leadership, understanding, clearer policies, simpler rules, and program consolidation.

Such prescriptions need not cost the Federal taxpayer an additional penny.

The Forums revealed that solutions to the difficult problems confronting America today will require, not more and more money, but the best thinking a resourceful people can muster; it suggests the need to utilize more rational approaches, creating out of America's energy and will, a new sense of resolve that its most pressing domestic problems can be solved in fairness to all, without triggering economic distortions, and without sacrificing the privileges of a free society.

WHITE HOUSE
PUBLIC FORUM
ON
DOMESTIC POLICY

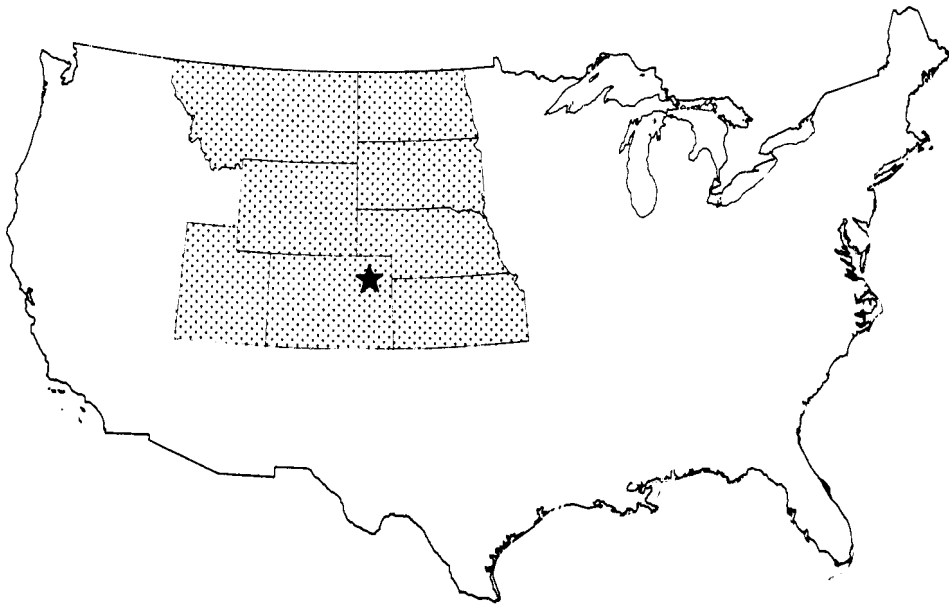


DENVER, COLORADO
OCTOBER 21, 1975

Domestic Council
Executive Office of the President

DENVER

WHITE HOUSE
PUBLIC FORUM
ON
DOMESTIC POLICY



DENVER, COLORADO
OCTOBER 21, 1975

Domestic Council
Executive Office of the President

PUBLIC FORUM ON DOMESTIC POLICY

Denver

October 21, 1975

SUMMARY

for

DOMESTIC REVIEW PROCESS

Domestic Council

The White House

CONTENTS

PUBLIC FORUM SUMMARY

A compendium of ideas presented at
the Forum on an issue-by-issue basis.

Economic Growth.....	PAGE	1
Resource Development.....	PAGE	9
Social Policy.....	PAGE	25
Community Building.....	PAGE	45

CRITICAL CONCERNS

A synopsis of critical public concern
based on the persistence and frequency
with which issues were raised at
Denver.....

PAGE 55

APPENDIX.....	PAGE	57
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Economic Growth



PUBLIC FORUM SUMMARY

Denver

Part I. Economic Growth

As a general observation, it should be mentioned that the overriding preponderance of testimony presented to the Denver Public Forum relative to Economic Growth issues focused on questions of unemployment or under-employment. No other single issue so occupied the attention of those who appeared before the panel or who submitted statements. The issue was approached from a variety of perspectives -- from labor, minority, veterans, educators, farmers, local government and politicians, and so forth. But the message was essentially the same: unemployment levels are intolerable, and the Federal Government must somehow intervene to correct the situation. Various proposals were presented for doing this which are summarized later.

The broad question of economic growth, aside from specific unemployment questions, was presented by business and academic sources.

One business witness proposed the following steps to "help bring this nation back to economic health."

First, I believe we need to use fiscal and monetary means in moderation to assist recovery. This can be inflationary -- but the economy needs the boost. The counter-balance needed to contain inflation is a substantial cut in government spending.

Second, the Administration and Congress should listen to the American people, and understand their real concern about inflation -- the diminishing purchasing power of the dollar.

If Washington wants to help our people, curbing government spending will bring the quickest results. And hopefully, with cuts in government spending would come a reduction in excessive government regulation of private enterprise.

Finally, we should revamp our system of business taxation which now bears more heavily on our corporations than does the tax system of almost any other major industrialized nation. Most have eliminated the two-tier system of business taxation, and I urge that the nation do likewise. American production capacities must be increased to meet the growing needs of our people -- capital must be made available through means such as increasing the investment tax credit, depreciation allowances and lower capital gains taxes. We must have capital formation.

The Denver Chamber of Commerce witness likewise stressed the need for the Administration to "remain alert to the capital investment needs and implement necessary incentive programs for business to insure the economic strength of the country."

The Chamber witness also expressed alarm over the role and authority of the Environmental Protection Agency, fearing its efforts will bring the country to a "complete economic standstill."

A professor of Economics at the University of Colorado at Denver, called for reduced federal spending (especially "swollen military outlays"), tax reform (targeting "special privilege loopholes"), reduced use of deficits as stimulants, and no significant tax cut. In monetary policy, he suggested the need to increase the rates of savings, by "the use of short-term loans." This approach, he testified, would lower interest rates and reduce inflation.

Finally, he contended that "the promises of 1946, in the Employment Act, must be kept."

More than a dozen witnesses made similar contentions about employment, each from his own viewpoint.

A spokesman for the Colorado Building and Construction Trades Council referred to the fact that the construction sector has suffered unemployment levels at double the national average. He also pointed out that under-employment is a "grave problem" in the construction industry. A cure, he suggested, would include a "joint venture between Government and Private Enterprise," including public works projects, energy exploration, and interest rate control which would allow middle-income and low-income families to have housing.

A Colorado County government Association official voiced support for the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act with these reservations: Local elected officials have not been allowed sufficient involvement in manpower planning; Federal rules and regulations have been continually modified and revised; and there has been inadequate communication among the several levels of government in implementing the programs. The official also called for "funding on an equitable basis for any county wishing to participate in the program."

Citing the large pool of unemployed workers in his area, the mayor of Albuquerque expressed the view that "the Federal Government, through its ability to redistribute wealth, ought to be able to devise methods for creating meaningful jobs." As an example, he proposed that Federal resources "could be used to put people to work building facilities that would house

major energy development activities that would in turn help all of us and provide long term productive employment." Putting people to work, he said, could free up the enormous sums now spent on unemployment compensation for other productive purposes.

Testimony presented by the Presidents of the Utah and Colorado Leagues of Women Voters supported unemployment compensation legislation which would extend the period of coverage, broaden the classifications of employees eligible for benefits, and increase the amounts of such benefits.

Each called for a national policy guaranteeing full employment, and suggested public service employment programs -- with a focus on community service jobs.

The impact on national employment patterns of the food producers was discussed by the Chairman of the North Dakota State Wheat Commission. He noted that farmers have become large consumers of manufactured agricultural equipment. He warned against any "market restrictions" which would cause farm prices to dip below costs, forcing the farmer to operate less intensively, thus, lessening the demand for agriculture equipment and other goods and services. The impact on the U.S. economy, and, especially, the unemployment situation, of such a lessening of demand, he said, "would certainly not be beneficial."

A spokesman for a Colorado Association devoted to minority enterprise noted that during recessionary periods, minority workers are at a particular disadvantage. He noted progress as a result of various "Affirmative Action" programs, but noted that the greatest progress has been made where "minority businessmen have become employers rather than employees."

He cited a study which showed that business developed by members of the minority community, encouraged by Federal programs such as the Small Business Administration (SBA), the office of Minority Business Enterprise, and major banks in Colorado, demonstrated an employment growth rate 2.5 times greater than the employment growth rate for the state. He concluded that "it would be in the best interests of economic recovery to increase the support to the minority entrepreneur as well as to the small business community in general."

In Wyoming, however, an official of the State Commission on the Status of Women, noted that on Indian Reservations, where unemployment is very high, SBA loans have generally failed because insufficient technical assistance accompanied the loans.

She also noted an extensive under-employment of women in the State. She recommended extending basic workers' benefits and rights to household employees, migrant and agricultural workers, and homemakers. She called for elimination of discrimination in income tax laws and the removal of sex-bias from social security coverage for unpaid homemakers.

An individual woman from Boulder, Colorado, submitted a statement asking for Federal help in eliminating employment and education bias against women and minorities, as well as other forms of discrimination. "We need job survival training," she suggested.

Citing the high unemployment figures for Vietnam veterans, especially among minorities, a veterans' representative expressed concern "with the present threat of budget cuts which possibly may emasculate present provisions for manpower services for the recently discharged veteran."

A spokesman for a South Dakota Forest Resources Association and the wood products industry expressed alarm at the low performance of the housing industry, complicated by Federal policy on the National Forest System.

He concluded:

In order to allow the region's national forests to provide raw material on a predictable basis at reasonable cost to the established wood products manufacturing industry, the Administration must adopt a policy of strong support for adequate funding for the access system which is required and for prompt and complete reforestation of presently unstocked forest land. The jobs generated by these two activities, alone, would go far in alleviating this region's high unemployment rate and its increasing dependance on federal and state welfare programs.

In a final proposal to treat unemployment, a candidate for the U. S. Senate submitted a program of capital expenditure designed to maintain nation-wide full employment.

A senior citizens group noted the "danger inherent in concentrated ownership of resources and industry in the hands of fewer and fewer," suggesting that "excessive profiteering is the basic cause of our present economic crisis." The group proposed a "redistribution of income," allowing all people comparable access to goods and services as a cure to current economic problems.

An official of the Regional Community Services Administration proposed the following method for encouraging local economic development:

The U. S. Government owns substantial amounts of the land in each of the six states in Region VIII which further reduces property tax potential. We would recommend that the Administration and the Congress enact legislation that would return fees from grazing, land rental, and mineral development to the several states for local economic development.

Other statements urged the Federal Government not to forget immigrant, migrant farm workers -- as fundamental to a healthy economy -- contending that "the small farmer must survive if the economy is to survive." A Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation spokesman noted that agriculture producers are most affected by inflationary pressures "created by excessive deficit spending." He urged the Federal Government to curtail wasteful spending.

A consumer cooperative spokesman called for the establishment of a federal banking system geared toward the development and capitalization of consumer cooperatives. And an individual proposal to tax "unspent profits" was submitted to the Forum.

The President of Kansas State University, cautioned against a Congressional bail-out of New York City finances, contending that it "would be a signal to all other governmental units to be fiscally irresponsible."

Finally, a Kansas Council of Churches representative urged the President and his Administration to "point the way" toward a "national campaign of austerity and a change of life-style." He asked the President to tell the American people "to buckle down, to sacrifice, to endure hardship," saying that ways would be found to do it.

Resource Development

Part II. Resource Development

While the entire question of resource development remains a critical issue in the Denver region, the overwhelming preponderance of the testimony on this subject taken at the Denver Forum reflected a recognition of the need to compromise, or moderate, the extreme views on this subject. While there were those who called for immediate and unchecked mineral and energy exploration in the region and others who urged a total cessation of resource development, most of those who submitted views ranged somewhere on a broad spectrum between those extremes.

A characteristic approach to this question was reflected in testimony by the Mayor of Casper, Wyoming, who was concerned about "the socio-economic impact on our communities that will result from large-scale energy-related development. . ."

He was concerned about the uncertainty public officials face in planning "energy" towns. He spoke of the severe problems towns feel in planning public facilities -- water plants, sewage treatment plants, streets, schools, hospitals, and so forth.

He proposed that long-range planning with reference to these issues be incorporated into National domestic policy. "One thing is certain," he testified, "if there isn't any advance planning there will be chaos."

Similarly, a Community Services Administration official spoke of his concern about the development of new communities around energy development areas. "Major grants from other than local governmental units will be necessary to provide orderly development," he said. "Not only is it necessary that grants be made prior to development, consideration must also be given to those communities after the development and after the energy extracting firms leave the individual communities."



The Mayor of Albuquerque chose to emphasize the positive impact of resource development on his city in job creation and encouraging the scientific community in his area. In his city, he said, "Federal resources could be used to put people to work building facilities that would house major energy development activities."

The Chairwoman of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota recognized the national shortage of energy as a critical problem, but she urged caution. She fears that energy groups would sacrifice clean air, environment and rich agricultural lands without offering a solution to the problems that would be encountered as a result of energy development.

Recognizing that under her Reservation there are millions of tons of coal that could help the Nation's energy supply, she adds, "we are afraid if you mine our coal, where can we live?"

She urges the Nation "to cooperate with us and to move slow in the taking of our coal deposits." She proposes an interim solution: "If additional lands could be given us so we would have a place to live while you are mining our coal, it would help."

The Colorado League of Women Voters' President conceded that Colorado is an energy-rich state, but she cautioned that any large-scale development of that state's natural resources must be planned carefully to avoid destruction of the land, degradation of the environment and social upheaval. "Although we in Colorado are willing to do our share to solve the Nation's energy problems," she said, "we believe that development should not take place beyond the state's carrying capacity (that ability to absorb the impact -- both environmentally and socio-economically)."

She also proposed that the Federal government should play an enlarged role in land-use planning, together with state and local jurisdictions.

The Wyoming Commission on the Status of Women also welcomes the development of the state's natural resources, as long as it is done consistent with orderly planning, environmental protection and land restoration. But the group urged increasing the return on minerals removed from the Federal land within the state from the current 37-1/2 percent to at least 60 percent, suggesting that the increased money should be used to help areas impacted by energy development.

The head of a National Farmers group told the Forum that a national energy policy is needed to avoid the elimination of valuable agricultural land. He cautioned against working for the goal of self-sufficiency in energy "if it is done in a way which threatens family farm agriculture and food production."

Similarly, the President of the Colorado State Senate, said that his state was ready to respond to the Nation's need for energy, within the "framework of appropriate environmental safeguards." But he noted the state's priorities: "We cannot solve the energy crisis by creating a food crisis."

He explained that known methods of fuel and mineral extraction require great amounts of water, water Colorado does not have except at the expense of irrigated agriculture. He proposed changes in Federal law to give his state a larger allocation of scarce Western water resources.

He supported Congressional action providing for the best multiple use of public land, condemning what he said was a violation of law, a Washington-imposed "dominant use concept." He also called for Federal payment in lieu of taxes on Federal land.

The industry viewpoint fairly consistently urged the Federal government to provide incentives and loans for energy development -- and streamlined environmental impact procedures.

The Counsel for a West Coast Oil Company, noting his own company's good record on environmental protection, noted "Some of the difficulties we perceive in developing energy resources and at the same time complying with environmental laws." His biggest concern was with the potential delay and litigation resulting from the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 -- requiring environmental impact statements. He proposed a means to expedite this process. A further concern was expressed over EPA regulations prohibiting any "significant deterioration" of air quality in areas of clean air, fearing this would prohibit the development of new industry where the air is better than the secondary standard level.

He concluded, however, that "it is my firm conviction that there is a growing awareness by corporate managers that they, too, breathe the air, drink the water and want unspoiled vistas for their children to view."

Supporting a national policy commitment directed toward energy self-sufficiency, another industry representative called for a broad-scale agenda for energy action, which he said should:

1. Allow the maximum use of the pricing mechanism.

2. Encourage the optimum contribution of private enterprise.
3. Insure stable government policies, with change, when required, phased in over time.
4. Resolve environmental problems quickly, with common sense and with broad gauge cost-benefit analysis.

He also urged access to all prospective resources, improved technology, higher real prices, and differential tax treatment which makes investment in energy development more attractive than less essential alternative investment. "If these requirements are not granted," he said, "I don't believe we can extricate ourselves from the mess we are in."

An official of a Colorado Commerce and Industry Association said that Colorado businessmen are very concerned with how energy development is allowed to proceed. But first, he believes that certain inconsistencies in Federal policy -- or lack of policy entirely -- should be resolved. This would include the following areas:

1. Federal versus state jurisdiction on public lands.
2. Front-end monies for community impacts from energy developments on public lands.
3. Affects of federal air quality controls on energy developments and other activities.

4. Failure of federal agencies to work with state on policy issues affecting the state and its people.

The President of an oil shale company testified that the technology for extracting this oil in commercial quantities is in hand, saying that shale oil in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah can add at least 20% to America's present domestic oil production "without strip-mining, without harmful air or stream pollution and without jeopardizing water supplies for other agricultural and consumer needs."

But he wants the Federal government to provide private loan guarantees for the first few demonstration plants -- and they should be large, commercial size plants, he said.

This oil shale project gets strong backing from the Colorado Building and Construction Trades Council. "It is a project that can go forth making energy available for the United States and bringing forth employment and return of tax money to the Government," said a Council spokesman. "The oil shale project should go forward immediately." He also urged EPA to reconsider its curbs on some construction projects.

A member of the Oil Shale Advisory Panel was critical of Federal policy in this field. He had four suggestions:

1. Federal policies and actions with regard to development of synthetic fuels and coal development should be coordinated, taking into account many related factors, such as oil shale, coal, tar sands and other minerals.

2. When unilateral actions of the Federal Government (such as coal leasing and prototype oil shale leasing) create potentially disastrous socio-economic and environmental impact, then the government should devise a mechanism for direct assistance in the solution of those problems.
3. A mechanism should be devised (or perhaps, a law created) which would permit a regional solution of impact problems, so that arbitrary state boundaries are no longer a legal obstacle to funding.
4. The Federal government must decide what relative importance is to be accorded to oil shale, coal, tar sands, and other minerals where the importance is rated high, then a mechanism must be devised to be sure that industries committed to extracting these materials will be assured of a reasonable market.

Expressing serious criticism of the Federal government's failure to encourage exploration and development of new and existing oil and gas reserves, the President of the Mountain States Independent Petroleum Association made the following Association recommendations:

- We favor immediate deregulation of new natural gas.

- We favor expedient removal of crude oil price controls and reinstatement of the free enterprise system.
- We oppose vertical divestiture of the so-called major oil companies which will result in greater inefficiency and higher prices to the consumer without truly increasing competition in an already very competitive industry.
- We oppose the creation of a Federal Energy Corporation, Energy Independent Agency, or any other program to operate in competition with the free enterprise system.
- We favor tax incentives to encourage exploration and development of the nation's resources.
- We favor reducing and streamlining governmental agencies with emphasis on less paperwork to reach environmental and safety objectives, and at the same time, increase efficiency in oil and gas drilling and producing operations.
- We fully support governmental action which encourages the conservation of energy.
- We support multiple use of public lands to enable development of the nation's resources on and underlying these lands.

-- We strongly support full development of the nation's resources in an orderly manner with due consideration to an intelligent protection of the environment for this and future generations.

A Montana Power Company statement cited two "primary impediments" to national energy development. First, "dilatatory actions of extremist environmental organizations" and, second, vacillating bureaucratic policies of the Federal government, and failure to coordinate power-related decisions at the state level. Unless these impediments are changed, the statement charged, "the national goal of energy independence can be seriously retarded."

The Utah Power and Light Company reflected similar concerns. It expressed concern over the delays caused by the Interior Department's reexamination of its coal leasing policy. The Company's top official expressed fear that the policy would require a combination of environmental impact statements requiring up to 36 months of preparation -- making any significant progress toward coal leasing at least six years away. "If this condition is allowed to continue," he said, "the country's dependence on foreign and imported petroleum products can only increase and hope for domestic self-sufficiency in energy must be totally abandoned."

He also noted that Utah coal, low in sulfur and ash content, is probably the most environmentally acceptable coal in the Nation for burning.

The Denver Chamber of Commerce expressed the following:

1. We believe we should proceed with all possible expediency in the further exploration and development of oil shale and coal conversion while giving proper consideration to the interests of the states in which this development will take place, simultaneously providing adequate support to the local communities that will be substantially impacted by the development. We support the basic concept of the synthetic fuels portion of the ERDA Bill now pending in Congress. We support the basic concept of the Administration's Project Independence. We feel that one of the high priorities of our nation should be to move toward energy self-sufficiency.

2. We feel the Administration and/or Congress should redefine and/or clarify the role and authority of the Environmental Protection Agency. It is our concern that if EPA continues to function for the next five years as it has during the past five years it will bring this country to a complete economic standstill.

A Denver attorney, recognizing the energy crisis as the current priority, urged the Forum to recognize the next crisis: "the near total destruction of this nation's non-ferrous minerals industry."

He called for a national policy encouraging exploration and discovery. He contended that present government policies have exactly the opposite effect.

He called Congressional and Federal environmental policies "catastrophic" to any attempt at developing the non-ferrous minerals industry -- particularly the "non-degradation" policy incorporated into the Clean Air Act.

An official of an Association of Colorado County Jurisdictions urged the U.S. Congress to consider amending the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act to allow expenditures by states and their subdivisions of bonus bids and other lease revenue funds for planning, construction, and maintenance of public facilities (other than the presently allowable schools and roads), and for public services.

He also called for "an effective working relationship" among Federal, State and local governments in the effort to reduce pollution.

An official of a Colorado environmental group testified that "as a nation, we have been and are continuing to be natural resource hogs."

She suggested that America must reorder its priorities to properly manage "all our natural resources for our long term survival as a people," the enforcement of stricter environmental standards, and the inclusion of environmental advisors on the immediate Presidential staff.

Another environmental and land use expert cited recent public opinion surveys showing that Americans are not only willing, but they want to change their lifestyles -- to cut back material consumption -- to conserve energy and scarce resources and to avoid waste.

His specific suggestions were these:

1. Make energy conservation a national policy that is backed up with deeds, not just words. This country sponsored the International Energy Agency, yet when that agency issued its first review of the individual programs of its 18 member nations, the United States was fourth from last in conservation efforts of the major oil importing nations.
2. Give energy conservation a high profile. Let it have its own separate agency funded with more dollars than are spent on energy research.
3. Subsidize energy savers, not energy developers. The developers have enough strength and built-in advantages already. If \$100,000,000,000 is to be made available for energy problems, let us focus it on railroads, that carry freight for one-sixth the energy used by trucks, on apartment dwelling, that uses but one-half the energy consumed by living in single-family suburbia, and on the countless other well documented situations in which a kilowatt saved can be a kilowatt found.

Another representative of an environmental organization feels that "the emphasis of the Federal government has for the most part, been away from the environmental concerns towards a role of instigator of development of our natural resources and promoter of development interests."

He urges the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 be kept strong -- and adequately funded in keeping with a goal of zero pollution discharge; he supports regulations protecting against harmful discharges of dredged or fill materials.

An official of the National Environmental Health Association believes that in the air pollution control/energy source controversy, the "number one priority is man's health."

He estimated that "fully one-third of all illness is environmentally induced."

He believes proper control of environmental dangers could save \$100 billion a year in doctors' bills.

In the same spirit, a Utah citizens group contended "in spite of the need for energy development . . . it would be foolhardy to lower our air standards, and, thereby, threaten the health of our people." The group believes that technology will meet the energy challenge, but called for careful planning.

An official of a Nebraska citizens group, citing the state's clean environment, good agricultural land and water, said simply: "We intend to preserve our environment."

A statement from the Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, summed up much of the environmental viewpoint.

The development of domestic energy resources in order to relieve this Nation's dependence upon foreign petroleum products is a goal which we support. Our mission is

to insure that this development is conducted in a balanced manner which will not seriously degrade our environment.

He also said:

Assessment of environmental impacts from energy resource development has resulted in the establishment and enhancement of close interagency working relationships at the Federal, State and local level. We fully support the continuation of the planning and investigations that must be performed if the balanced development of these critical regional resources is to proceed in an environmentally sensitive way.

A spokesman for the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation referred to land as "our most valuable resource." But he feels that the survival of America as a Nation depends on an agriculture free to produce and market its products. And that means having adequate supplies of fuels and freedom from "certain regulations and requirements placed on agriculture by agencies and administrators." He did not elaborate.

The Chairman of the North Dakota State Wheat Commission likewise expressed concern over full supplies. "The farmer must be assured of a dependable supply of fossil fuels at a reasonable price if he is to be able to produce the amount of food necessary to feed the nation and provide grain for export."

The National President of the Farmers Union had other concerns:

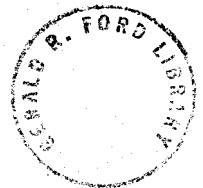
"Twenty years of low farm prices," he said, "were the critical force that drove millions of farmers out of farming." He believes farm prices are still too low, and his remedy is setting prices at "parity," and a system of grain reserves.

"Costs to the government would be nominal since surplus and shortage years would tend to offset each other," he said.

A Forest Resources Association official and spokesman for the forestry industry says his industry has participated "vigorously" in the reporting requirements of the Resources Planning Act (P. L. 93-378), adding:

We support a program which will assure a sufficient supply of developed recreation, timber and range production from all forest and rangeland and help hold relative prices constant. Strong Administration support and policy direction will be required to assure that this far-reaching effort realizes its potential to better the life of every American.

Social Policy



Part III. Social Policy

Recommendations on domestic social policy issues gathered at the Denver Forum agreed on one point: current policies have failed and present programs should be eliminated, changed, or completely reformed. Suggestions ranged from getting unqualified people off the "dole," to broad systems of direct income support. However, in every case, there was agreement that there was a legitimate need and that something should be done to help qualified individuals. Health care and health costs ranked very high in the lists of concerns under social programs and policies, as did efforts to help women and minorities achieve equal status in society.

Referring to the "complex and inconsistent system we have for providing governmental subsidies to vulnerable groups in our society," the Dean of the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Colorado at Denver described two "diametrically opposed value systems" in doing this:

For some corporations, railroads, airlines, shipping companies, tobacco farms, and many others, we grant government subsidies as a necessary contribution to the economic system. For the poor, the handicapped, or the aged, we set up a subsidy system called welfare, which demeans and dehumanizes the person. No one is in favor of the present system including the recipients.

He urged a fresh look at the entire subsidy concept, saying that subsidies to vulnerable people should be viewed within the same value system as subsidies to vulnerable business organizations.

He suggested:

1. Devoting full energies toward moving in the direction of transfer payments to vulnerable

people, -- including family allowances, children's allowances and negative income taxes.

2. Concentrating special efforts at the regional level on decentralizing, such as was conceived by Title XX of the Social Security Act ("yet the regulations set up by Washington to monitor this Act have been almost as rigid as a straight jacket. ")
3. And, providing adequate funds for trained personnel to administer programs in the areas of child welfare and family services and community mental health center staffs.

He deplored the White House budget cuts for training funds. He added:

Nowhere in the Executive action was any consideration given to the particular needs of Region 8. A Regional review would have shown that this is not true of Indians, Chicanos, Blacks and persons equipped to work in rural areas. And so, whatever domestic policy we develop, we must include regional consideration if our policy is to be truly responsive.

While recognizing the need and desirability for major welfare reforms, an official of the Colorado Department of Social Services suggested that the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program needs to be improved before massive reforms are undertaken in other programs.

Calling the SSI program "not now as efficient as we would like, " she proposed that the requirements and administration be simplified.

I am against legislation that would add special allowances, such as fuel or housing, to SSI on an individual case basis. I think that the SSI payment

should remain a flat grant less income. If other federal agencies or state departments wish to add special needs, this should be handled as grants to states. An accurate federal SSI program centrally located in Baltimore cannot accommodate individual treatment to all recipients. The law or rules should be changed to permit payments of this type based on need to be exempt from income consideration by SSI. Also, the law should be changed to permit vendor payments made in lieu of cash payments on a needs basis to be exempt.

She also recommended that cost-of-living increases in the same percentages be given to Social Security, Supplemental Security and Railroad retirement -- so that payment changes are all in the same month -- helping to eliminate errors.

With respect to the Quality Control program in effect for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), she noted that this procedure "should not also be used for fiscal sanction purposes."

She also felt that HEW rules, regulations and guidelines for the Social Services Act - (P. L. 93-647, Part A) exceed the intent of the law, calling them "so restrictive, definitive and complicated that they seriously curtail a state's ability to develop an effective, workable plan." Furthermore, she said, with no additional federal allocation to off-set inflation, Colorado is unable to maintain the level or volume of services provided by law.

Finally, she proposed changes in the rules and requirements under the Food Stamp plan to simplify its administration.

A detailed report prepared for the President of the Utah State Senate by the Utah Office of Legislative Research, on "Counter Productive Effects of Federal Regulations on Social Service Programs in the States," found in a survey of all 50 states that, in some cases, federal regulations are "unprofitable and damaging to the intent of the program."

These regulations involve a wide range of programs and services, including mentally retarded, medical, mental health and family services.

The following represents a summary and preliminary conclusions drawn from the 50 state survey.

A. Service Integration.

The categorical nature of funding of various programs continues to be a major deterrent to sound and effective administration of programs. As many as eight or nine income or needs assistance programs are in effect in most communities, and each program requires separate forms, administration, reporting, eligibility. Examples are unemployment compensation, workman's compensation, veterans benefits, social security, local, state and individual retirement benefits, supplemental security income, aid to families with dependent children, general assistance, food stamps, medical assistance (Medicaid), and Medicare.

Similar constraints exist in providing social services. Vocational rehabilitation, mental health services, drug abuse and alcoholism services, services to the aged, family services and services to the developmentally disabled require classification of program beneficiaries to strict and yet artificial categorical eligibility. Separate systems of reporting, technical assistance, and program reviews illustrate fragmentation and duplication rather than an effective system for service delivery.

The Federal Government and the Department of HEW in particular purport to encourage service integration, and of course, discourage the duplication of services. In actual practice, however, HEW tends to discourage the integration of categorical programs. Among the largest roadblocks to integration of services are the Federal regulations

which require separate accountability trails for each program and severely restrict the combined use of funds to a particular client group. The problem is not that the states will not accept accountability, but rather that the regulations go beyond meeting the program objectives and basic accountability standards to the point of severely restricting funding and administrative discretion with a rigidity that subverts the original intent of the program.

The lack of consistency among Federal programs, such as AFDC Financial Assistance (Title IV A of the Social Security Act), Medical Assistance under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, and the Food Stamp Program (Food Stamp Act of 1964, as amended) creates problems in terms of what income is counted in determining eligibility and the amount of assistance. These differences constitute a huge administrative barrier to efficiency in the programs. For example, in determining an applicant's eligibility for and amount of AFDC payment, the regulations found in 45 CFR 233.20 together with Federal laws require states to follow a maze of inclusions, exclusions, deductions, limitations and income disregards.

The administration of these complex procedures result in prohibitive costs and an unnecessarily high ratio of administrative personnel to service providers. These costs ultimately result in a reduction of the scope of the program and curtailment of the services and assistance rendered to the applicants.

B. Eligibility Determination

In addition to the multiplicity of income disregards, some of the laws require that current eligibility be based on events which occurred as long as three years ago. For example:

1. Public Law 94-48 on Medicaid eligibility requires a search to determine if the applicant was receiving or eligible for cash assistance and Medicaid in August, 1972, but who may have lost such eligibility because of the 20 percent increase in Social Security benefits.

2. Public Law 93-66 requires that in determining Food Stamp eligibility for certain SSI recipients a state must determine the amount of assistance such individual would have been entitled to in December, 1973. Add to this, the amount of Food Stamp bonus coupons the individual would have received in July, 1973. Compare the total with the current amount of SSI benefits the individual is receiving. If the first total is greater than the SSI benefit, the individual would be eligible for food stamps. This requirement has been temporarily postponed but serves as a prime example of laws which are difficult to administer.

Calling for "a completely new, fresh look at the problem of public welfare and a reexamination of its underlying philosophy," the President of the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry believes that "the greatest and most tragic loss of our national welfare system is the dignity and self-respect of the individual who accepts a dole..." He believes that public welfare should never be allowed to become a way of life for anyone except the severely handicapped and the aged who are unable to work.

Conceding that the need for welfare programs will always exist, he suggested requiring recipients to be-

come self-reliant at the earliest possible date.

He added:

Surely it is within our ability and expertise to design assistance programs that will carry Americans through periods of adversity, qualify them for a useful and productive role in society and let them resign from public charity. With this accomplishment would come an enormous reduction in cost, and a notable increase in human dignity, self-esteem and sense of accomplishment.

Similarly, the President of the Denver Chamber of Commerce, while recognizing and supporting the need for an objective, realistic welfare program, proposed that "any person on welfare who is physically and mentally capable of performing a productive endeavor should be required to work in some type of meaningful public sector job while receiving welfare. "

And the head of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation expressed deep concern over the inflationary impact of the many social programs in effect today and urged resistance to the pressure for even more such programs.

He feels that the agricultural producer is unfairly saddled with the costs of such programs, being particularly vulnerable to inflation "Americans must become more aware that continued welfare and grant programs must be curtailed. "

Most of those who presented views at the Denver Forum, however, chose to suggest reforms -- to a greater or lesser degree -- in social programs, rather than curtailment.

A spokesman for a Community Action group deplored the fact that welfare is often looked upon "as a dirty word" and those receiving welfare "as being lazy and ignorant. " He noted that people on welfare do not have access to the credit economy, relegating them to a "simple life of survival. "

He submitted the following proposal:

All citizens should have sufficient income on which to live; for a non-farm family of four that income should be \$6,000 minimum. This basic income should be provided through government assistance, and, or employment.

1. The working poor should be given assistance from public funds to achieve this basic level of income. The working poor should also receive other social services as needed to upgrade their earning power toward self-sufficiency.
2. Un-employed fathers should not be encouraged to abandon their families, they should be assisted in developing skills needed for employment and then assisted in finding adequate employment and decent wages.
3. Female heads of households should be aided through the expansion of programs such as W. I. N. once their children have reached a certain age. They should not be forced to take menial jobs at sub-standard wages.
4. Basic income grants should have built in escalators that keep pace with inflation.
5. Government and private industry should develop full employment policies and programs that also work to eliminate racism and sexism from the economy.

6. Child care programs should be strengthened and expanded.

An association of Colorado Counties encourages the continued 75 percent federal matching funds for social services and calls for providing reallocation of federal social service fund allotments from states that do not use them to states like Colorado which have reached their ceiling, to allow the local flexibility provided for in the new Title XX of the Social Security Act "to be meaningfully utilized."

The association further supported the position that local administrative departments be allowed to set service priorities in their areas and decide where Title XX cuts must be made. It also recommends that counties administer the food stamp program in their areas rather than the state.

The Acting Regional Director of the Community Services Administration submitted a report on its experience in applying a Single-Purpose Application and Automatic Referral System (SPAARS) to the States in Region VIII. It is designed to clear up the "chaotic benevolence" resulting from separate agencies, staffs and automatic data processing systems, the tangle of forms and procedures, and perplexing questions of quality control and compliance. It is designed to eliminate duplication in the eligibility certification process and increase program participation.

The SPAARS System involves:

1. Simplifying the application process for individuals seeking assistance from social and economic programs at the state level;

2. Consolidating state program application and eligibility forms to meet state and federal requirements;
3. Designing a single form incorporating as many essential state program eligibility requirements as possible;
4. Designing and implementing a referral system which will automatically certify eligibility of the individual to appropriate state programs; and
5. Ensuring that the system will protect the confidentiality of all "personal data" provided through SPAARS.

A resource base has been prepared which classifies eligibility requirements for 41 Federal human service programs aimed at eventually permitting multi-program uses of information provided only a client.

A National Urban League official called for welfare reform combining present welfare and tax systems under a "Credit Income Tax." Under this proposal, everyone would be given a yearly grant based on a carefully drawn formula. If a person's income failed to reach the level of the grant, the difference would be retained. Those with incomes over the grant would be taxed. Besides cutting costs of running a welfare program, according to this official, it would "create a sense of dignity in individuals forced to accept outside financial aid."

A spokesman for the Colorado Department of Human Resources testified as to the constructive way the seventeen Community Action Agencies (CAAs) in Colorado "have and are meeting the needs of the people they are intended to serve, the poor and the near poor." He testified that for every dollar directly invested in CAAs by the Federal government, more than \$2.50 was generated from other sources, public and private, to underwrite CAAs programs nationwide.

He expressed concern, however, that, in spite of the growing needs and inflationary factors, CAAs have been funded at the same level for four years. His recommendation to the Forum was stated this way: "That the Domestic Council recommend to both the President and Congress to increase the funding level for CAAs."

The President of the Colorado League of Women Voters said League members favor encouraging work as an alternative to welfare. She added, however, that "people can't work if the job -- and in many instances, child care -- aren't available." She said the Federal Government bears a major responsibility for providing income assistance to meet the basic needs of all persons in the United States who are unable to work, whose earnings are inadequate, or for whom jobs are not available.

She said the League views food stamps "as a necessary supplement to inadequate public assistance programs."

She added:

A comprehensive review of the program would certainly be in order. It is not acceptable to make major cuts in this program simply to cut federal spending levels. The disadvantaged should not be asked to bear the heaviest impact from inflation and recession.

The Chairperson of the Wyoming Commission on the Status of Women expressed concern about adequate mental health, juvenile rehabilitation, and drug and alcoholism treatment programs. She finds all such programs are being handicapped by funding difficulties due to the new "no strings attached" revenue sharing policies. "The result," she concludes, "has been a regrettable lack of support for human services."

Calling on the country to explore new methods of approaching the welfare problem, the President of Utah's League of Women Voters suggested a revival of the Federal income maintenance proposal. She believes Americans "must be willing to pay the price" of such a program. She also expressed regret at cut backs in the school lunch program.

A spokesman for the Kansas Council of Churches deplores characterizations of the food stamp program as a "rip-off." While admitting there may need to be reform, he believes the nation cannot give up this means of providing them assistance. "I plead," he said, "for greater effort at conveying genuine concern for the 'little people'..."

Calling traditionally designed social programs "self-perpetuating and non-effective," the President of the Mountain Plains Congress of Senior Organizations said:

We strongly feel that if social programs continue to be as grossly ineffective as they have been, that the monies allocated for these programs should go directly to those in need. All social programs, regardless as to methods of distribution, should contain an escalator clause to ensure that consumers possess the necessary means to adjust their income to economic trends.

Urging the nation to consider "the moral justice of health care for everyone," a lawyer from Yankton, South Dakota testified that his family had exhausted a major medical policy in almost record time.

"I know about health costs!!" he testified. "...I have encountered some personal experiences in that regard. We have a 16-year old son with a history of 23 major operations..."

Calling for increased funding and government support for the nation's health care system, he added: "Statistics show that it costs thousands to kill one man in wartime. No one really wants to sacrifice lives in the name of economy!"

The President of the Colorado Medical Society testified that doctors in his state "still believe that ideal medical care can best be obtained by a continuing relationship of a doctor with an individual patient." He fears that government and other third party involvement in payments has diminished this relationship.

Because Colorado is mainly a rural state, he said, he is concerned about health care in rural communities. He suggested Federal help in establishing "family practice residencies" in outlying cities, under the general direction of the University.

He expressed concern about the malpractice situation in Colorado and about the number of physician extenders and assistants that are being developed, saying that there will be no shortage of physicians in ten years.

He reflected the Society's special concern about frequent changes in regulations with regard, mainly, to Medicaid and Medicare.

He added:

We are most concerned about the major changes which result from Public Law 93-641. Some aspects of this law are good but we are extremely concerned about the fact that many areas of the health systems treatment and planning will be directly under the control of the HEW Administrator with very little possibility of local, state or even federal input by responsible elected officials. We are very much concerned about the rules and regulations that are often promulgated with what seems to us little medical justification. An example is the rule as a part of Medicaid which requires a visit to a patient in a nursing home by a physician each month.

A spokesman for the Colorado Foundation for Medical Care believes that the current concentration of major expenditures in medical care programs for the elderly and the poor is appropriate.

With regard to comprehensive coverage, both basic and catastrophic, for the entire population, it is his hope "that we will choose a course that will require minimal Federal

involvement in administration of a national health insurance program." He believes that whatever health care programs are developed for Federal participation should be financed out of a separate payroll tax, identified and placed in a separate trust away from the Social Security Trust. And he feels that health care providers should be held accountable for the quality of health care provided under this trust.

He believes that a Professional Standards Review Organization (PSRO) can help achieve a "substantial cost saving to the state."

The current Medicaid "funding crisis in Colorado nursing homes," was documented in some detail in three papers by staff members of the Colorado Health Care Association.

The papers show how the "crisis" causes some private-paying patients to actually "subsidize" other patients who are on Medicaid.

An Association spokesman explained:

For instance, when a nursing home cannot bill Medicaid for the true costs of care, room and board the medicaid patient incurs, it becomes necessary to bill his private-paying room-mate more, for the same care, same room and same board in order to off-set the inadequate Medicaid reimbursement rate. Because the Colorado Medicaid rates were not allowed to increase as the costs of care increased over the past several years, the private-paying patient has been charged more each year.

Today, private-paying patients can no longer "subsidize" and absorb the increased costs of his neighboring Medicaid patient. This is driving the private-paying patients out of nursing homes and

explains why the average occupancy rate of Colorado nursing homes is dropping. It also explains why a majority of the remaining patients are now Medicaid patients whose daily rates cannot now give them the same quality care they were receiving when they were being subsidized by the private-paying patients who could afford it.

A professor at the University of Colorado at Denver, proposed: "With wider use of pre-paid comprehensive health care delivery systems, the U. S. could have a healthier citizenry at significantly lower public and private outlays for health care."

A spokesman for the National Environmental Health Association estimated that fully one-third of all illness is environmentally induced. He added:

If we are talking in terms of dollars, this tells us that a whopping big doctor bill of \$100 billion could be avoided by putting just some of that money into preventive programs. Any upcoming health legislation should include prevention and the services of professional environmentalists/sanitarions. Many sub-committees in the federal government are doing so, but the executive branch of the federal government should support prevention of illness as well. This large dollar figure talks only of controlling illness and preventing the need for expenditure of this money. It says nothing about the amount of suffering that could be prevented by controlling environmental hazards. The rising cost of medical care and hospitalization is reason enough to prevent as much illness as possible.

He also said his Association is greatly interested in health planning developed by the Bureau of Health Planning and Resources Development resulting from recent legislation. "We generally believe that environmental health planning is critical in planning for improved health," he said.

The Wyoming Commission on the Status of Women called for "innovative approaches to the provision of adequate health care for all our people." Elaborating on this need, a spokesperson said that there are dozens of small communities in Wyoming with no doctors or even drug stores where prescriptions can be filled.

The Colorado Congress of Senior Organizations also noted the problem of health care delivery in rural areas, especially, where in Colorado, a disproportionate population of older citizens live. The organization's Executive Director expressed concern over "sky rocketing costs," lack of a coherent policy on long-term care for older Americans, nutrition, and broadly accessible preventive health care.

The Utah League of Women Voters, noting the health care assistance currently available for the elderly, suggests that more alternatives should be available for this group: "There needs to be alternatives to nursing home care which is expensive to provide. Home services such as homemakers or "meals on wheels" would assist people who wish to stay in their own homes. This would be far less expensive to provide than traditional nursing home services, and would provide an alternative for our senior citizens.

The Region 8 Community Services Administration recommended that "where states have optional mill levys for the elderly that Federal laws be changed so that this money could be used as 'Federal Match Funds' to generate more resources for the use of the elderly."

Referring to the continued productivity of senior citizens beyond the arbitrary 65 years of age, a Denver Democratic committee man who recently reached that age, wondered "why I am not allowed to draw my Social Security and still be allowed to work in my field -- and earn all I can instead of waiting till I reach the age of 72."

He believes that the government should recognize the fact that "many people are able to continue their earnings and are producers, but have not been able to assemble enough in the way of assets to retire and live on the small Social Security allowed under this program."

Citing many important issues facing the American Indian today, the Chairperson of the Tribal Business Council of Fort Berthold Reservation, spoke in general of the social needs of her people:

We need legislation to improve the quality of life of the American Indian. We share with other Americans the hope, values and ideals often referred to as the "American Dream." We want a better way of life for our children and grandchildren than that experienced by my generation and by my father's generation. We need programs to educate and employ our young people.

A spokesman for veterans interests expressed pleasure that the President has indicated that veterans are not to be hurt by proposed budget cuts.

We are not too sure however, that his statement is consistent with the administration's track record relative to veteran's benefits and services. We have witnessed a veto of a much needed increase in G.I. Bill benefits, illegal impoundment of the veteran's cost of instruction payments program funds, lack of implementation of Public Law 92-540 relative to veteran's employment services, lack of implementation of Public Law 93-567, relative

to comprehensive employment and training for veterans, administrative requests for reduction in the funding of manpower services and the general lack of orientation of administration officials at all levels to the problems of veterans in general.

He expressed particular concern over this issue because "a disproportionate number of these veterans come from economically disadvantaged and minority backgrounds."

Noting that minority workers are at a disadvantage especially during recessionary periods, a spokesman for the Colorado Economic Development Association urged continued and increased support for affirmative action aimed at increasing minority employment.

And, a farmworker investigator for the Rural Legal Services of Denver said that a realistic look at America "shows the old boogie man called racism peeking out of all the economic windows."

He added: "If you are unskilled, it is hard to get reasonable employment. But if you are unskilled and are of an ethnic minority, then you will have even greater problems."

He noted that this problem is magnified in rural areas.

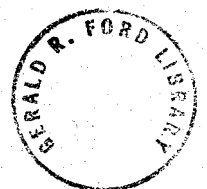
The Colorado Commission on the Status of Women urged the Administration "to continue its moral and legal support of Affirmative Action programs for all levels of government, particularly we urge the increasing inclusion of women and minorities at the highest level of administrative posts, especially at the level of Presidential appointments."

The Commission also called on the Administration to make certain that Affirmative Action extends to the field of revenue sharing and other grants programs.

The Utah and Colorado Leagues of Women Voters urged all government leaders to support the Equal Rights Amendment, with the Utah League President expressing gratitude "for the support of President and Mrs. Ford and many members of his Administration." The Chairperson of the Wyoming Commission on the Status of Women likewise called for passage of the ERA. But, she cautions, "much remains to be done to implement ERA in our own state and in the nation once it is passed nationally."

Finally, an individual woman from Boulder, Colorado, wrote that "when society sits down to reorganize, replan, and alter cultural patterns and women are excluded, trouble always results.... Women are highly trained observers of cultural patterns, so quite often they can creatively arrive at simple solutions to problems the men claim to be impossible."

Community Building



Part IV. Community Building

While questions of community development were not subject to separate focus at the Denver Forum, a number of witnesses raised questions which, in the broad domestic policy review, are being considered under this heading -- housing, transportation, education, and Federal, state, local relations. During the Denver hearings, education was considered under "social policy" but is summarized here to be consistent with the Domestic Council's comprehensive policy review. Where the issue of long-range planning was presented in relation to community development, it is summarized here.

The preponderance of concern reflected in testimony related to "community development" centered on problems of community adjustment to a new period in American growth -- a new period of energy shortages, inflation, fiscal problems, and so forth. This is typified by a remark by the top official of the Wyoming Commission on the Status of Women: "People in Wyoming are concerned that the quality of our communities be such that our homes and family life is strengthened. We see many things to be concerned about." Forum testimony responded to these concerns mainly by suggesting ways to rationalize the education system to the needs of this new period, by proposing ways to finance community facilities and services, and by clarifying the role of each level of government in terms of financing and service delivery.

Describing education as "integral to the resolution of all these issues," the Executive Director of the Education Commission of the States called for "significant changes in our individual life styles." He added: "Clearly, this reevaluation and reordering of our traditions constitutes an education task of unprecedented proportions."

Suggesting that Federal, state and local officials must face the fact that very little new education funding will be available in the immediate future, he said he was not necessarily recommending increased Federal education funding.

He cited the following specific steps he would recommend to enhance the current education investment and "spark a resolution of national concerns with energy, environment, natural resources, social services and the economy.

1. Reevaluation and redesign of school and college (including teacher training) programs with regard to human and economic values and use of natural resources.
2. Encouragement of nationwide planning to meet domestic problems in areas such as manpower needs, vocational training, identification of research needs, coordination of research efforts, curriculum changes, education objectives and research dissemination efforts. One specific caveat in this regard is that we must be careful not to create imbalances by overcommitting our resources in areas of immediate need. We should not repeat the post-Sputnik overemphasis on science training, leading to oversupply or underutilization of science-trained people. What we must do is to confront the immediate crisis with full cognizance that tomorrow's problems may be different from today's.
3. Review career preparation with emphasis on domestic priorities and the all-important need to foster individual ability to cope with changing patterns of living and working. In addition, we should monitor the effectiveness of career education and environmental education throughout all levels of education.
4. Capitalize on the use of all public information resources and coordinate them with formal education efforts through a National Task Force on Domestic Issues and Public Information. Include press media, radio, television, business and industry training programs, advertising industry, volunteer, religious and other service groups.

5. Revitalize the partnership between education and manpower through such steps as making education a cabinet-level post and reconstituting a science advisory structure for the President.

6. Evaluate and place higher priority on research and its application in fields of energy, environment, delivery of social services, manpower training and employment. Fund and develop incentive programs for such efforts by reordering current research and education priorities and programs.

With an unprecedented, nationwide education effort, he concluded, Americans can achieve the change in lifestyles needed in this new period.

A spokesman for Denver's East Side Action movement proposed that "Education systems should teach children how to think, instead of what to think, with less emphasis on busing and more emphasis on quality education and community control."

A local Denver politician suggests making education more relevant to job development, saying that it is the government's duty to provide tuition free training and retraining for every citizen. "We, as a nation," he said, "have thousands of universities and colleges for education but few facilities to train and retrain the unskilled, semi-skilled, and the retraining of the workers whose skills have been made obsolete by new technology."

A legal worker concerned with rural development and farmworkers regretted the lack of programs to address the needs of rural people who seek a formal college education. Again, he related education to job development saying that education gives an individual "a much better opportunity within the job market," he called for increased funding for education and relevant support services "so that those who wish might make a final break with poverty."

Finally, the Utah League of Women Voters took the following stance on education.

There is no question that we should continue to pursue an equal education for all American citizens. The Administration should be complimented for its work in this area. It is as important for women to learn to control and discipline their bodies as it is for men. We oppose any weakening amendments to Title IX of the Education Act. We must continue to provide and improve equal opportunity for education for all people. The League supports the busing concept when it is needed to provide an equal education for all children.

The Mayor of Casper, Wyoming, discussed the broader concerns of community development -- particularly those related to the impact on communities of energy-related industrial development. He is concerned about public facilities in towns expected to be impacted by such development. He is concerned about the dollar cost of such facilities, but he is more concerned about the planning that must take place before they can be built and financed. He hopes that "somewhere in our national domestic policy there is an answer."

While not wishing to minimize the magnitude and complexity of public facility financing, he expressed the conviction that it can be adequately handled at the local and state levels, without the need for Federal participation or support.

He explained:

Paying for the public facilities, once they have been built, I believe to be the responsibility -- and well within the capacity -- of local and state governments. Specifically, I see that responsibility as one which assures that the revenues generated from the new industrial tax base flow to the areas of need both in adequate amounts and in timely fashion. This can be done through appropriate state legislation. Wyoming, I believe, has taken the lead in enacting such legislation.

His larger concern is "advance planning for public facilities at the community level." The need for such planning, he says, is obvious, but determining the financial responsibility for such planning is "more difficult."

He proposes that the Federal Government assume the financial burden of advance planning.

He proposes that the Federal Government could:

1. Create a revolving impact fund of \$25 to \$50 million for advance planning.
2. Distribute those funds to the Governors of each of the energy states, using the old harmless, block grant technique of distribution.
3. Direct the Governors to redistribute his State share to those communities in need of advance planning funds.
4. Require the funds to be repaid to this revolving fund only if the advance plans are ultimately used and can be capitalized as a project cost -- otherwise, write them off.

Other testimony related to community development touched on delicate issues of Federal, state and local relations.

The Mayor of Albuquerque cited several examples to illustrate his reluctance to "tap Federal resources to tackle long term, meaningful projects...." Before a Federal program can be implemented, he said, many "administrative barriers" must be cleared, complicated often by "a continuing change of regulations in mid-stream."

He cited these complicating factors in administering the Community Development Act of 1974, Public Housing Programs, and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, among others.

The Executive Director of Colorado Counties, Inc., complained that Federal programs have attempted to bypass local governmental jurisdictions.

He added: "We suggest that the democratic process not be circumvented and that a formal process be required in order that decisions made at a sub-state level do truly represent the wishes of the political jurisdictions involved."

And the Dean of the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver expressed a similar concern in these terms: "We had been led to believe that a process of decentralization was to take place, giving more decisions to the regional office. Frankly, little has been done in this regard."

On the other hand, some concern was expressed that where spending decisions were made entirely at the local level -- and revenue sharing was cited -- certain human needs were being over-looked.

The Wyoming State Commission on the Status of Women expressed its concern this way:

Leaving decisions on the use of revenue sharing funds in the hands of such people as county commissioners has generally resulted in overemphasis on capital expenditures such as city halls, equipment for county roads departments, and improvements in law enforcement facilities. The result has been a regrettable lack of support for human services. Therefore, those in need of the services formerly provided with these same funds are deprived of them while the money that could be used in this way is instead often directed towards reducing taxes for the more affluent members of our communities.

And the Colorado Urban League stated the same concern:

We in the Urban League have taken a long, hard look at the concept and the practices of Revenue Sharing. The decentralization of the Federal dollar finds proponents and opponents of this approach. My organization has some concerns about how local governments -- will face up to including [poor] portions of the population in their funding of programs. Many municipalities or even States have not compiled impressive records of "sharing the wealth." Experience has tended to reinforce some of the fears that accompanied the announcement that much of the funding of programs would be removed from Washington. Social services, with the many remedial programs possible therein, have fared poorly under General Revenue Sharing. Guidelines, so flexible as to almost discount the needs of "individuals," do little to insure that those who are on the lower rungs of the economic ladder will be helped. If revenue sharing must be operative at the level closest to need, then need must loom larger in the halls where decisions are made. Further, ways must be opened to greater citizen participation at the planning and funding levels.

One specialized problem raised in the general area of Federal-local relations was stated by a spokesman for the Colorado Building and Construction Trades Council, an AFL-CIO affiliate. He expressed concern over the direction the Federal Government has taken with regard to "government-let contracts and the programs that they are involved in." He feels that the Department of Labor should be the enforcement arm of contracts let by the Federal Government.

He explained:

They [Labor Department officials] should have the power to rule and interpret established procedures so that all Labor Unions would have one department to deal with. The morass that is caused by contracting officers and procurement procedures is almost unbelievable. The interpretations from the Department of Defense, the A. S. P. E. R. Regulations, the

Federal Register, GSA -- all lend to labor unrest and difficulty not only between the Government and Labor but also between Government and Management to obviously deal with procedures that can change day by day. It is the firm belief of the Building Trades Council that the enforcement of contract should be removed, as far as labor is concerned, from contracting officers and returned to the Department of Labor so that we would have one policy and one rule interpretation and one agency to deal with.

On the need for the Federal Government to renew its commitment "to a long range program to develop housing for the low income population," the Utah and Colorado Leagues of Women Voters were in accord. The Utah League President said that a full range of authorized housing subsidy programs should be implemented. She said that "comprehensive plans of a given area should be included in all applications for community development grants."

The President of the Colorado League called for "Federal planning grants to help [communities] cope with the problems of planning for housing and community development."

And a spokesman for the lumber industry called for government forestry policies to assure a continued flow of timber for housing materials to assure adequate housing for more Americans.

On the issue of urban mass transit, the Denver Chamber of Commerce called upon the Department of Transportation to clarify and streamline its procedures to expedite urban mass transit systems in American cities.

A spokesman added:

We feel that cities like Denver, which are well ahead in the planning phase for mass transit and where citizens have acted affirmatively in approving local share financing, and where there is still time to solve the mass transit

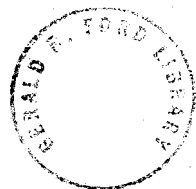
problem before it becomes critical, should be given priority in allocation of UMTA funds.

He also called on the Administration to expedite the early completion of the Interstate Highway System and urged Congress to pass legislation extending the Highway Trust Fund through fiscal 1977-78.

Finally, a University of Colorado professor submitted the following proposal:

In the field of transportation, especially within our cities, we should provide automated, elevated, light-weight, transportation systems which, by also hauling LCL freight, the mail, and solid wastes to recycling centers, might be fully self-supporting, rather than require subsidies. The University hosted the third international conference on such automated guideway systems last month. It is clear that if the US does not move soon, decisively, both German and Japanese have the technology and will pre-empt the market. There are very real economies to be achieved, for the households and business firms, as well as in public budgets, from investing in transportation systems that will serve our energy and environmental concerns at lower true costs.

Critical Concerns



CRITICAL CONCERNS

DENVER

The overriding concern of citizens who appeared at the Denver Forum was the economy. This included inflation, unemployment, under-employment and the aggravated plight of minority workers. The economic issue spilled over into all other areas: resource development, which directly affects regional employment; social programs, such as welfare and food stamps; and, community building, where energy-related industrial development is needed.

Second to economic issues were environmental ones, in large part due to the fact that the citizens of this region live, as one participant stated, "close to the land." Many fear that the discovery, extraction and use of energy materials located here endangers environmental quality and threatens to encroach on recreational and wilderness areas.

All the speakers exhibited in their comments, perhaps to an even greater degree than in written statements, a sensitive appreciation of the interdependency of economic and social problems. They reiterated a desire for cooperative federal-state planning in order to effectively cope with present difficulties and anticipate future ones.

Appendix



CONTENTS

Agenda for Denver Public Forum 59

Forum Participants 63

Mountain Plains Federal Regional Council 69

AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM ON DOMESTIC POLICY

Morning Session

**Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller
Presiding**

Denver Hilton Hotel - Grand Ballroom

- 9:00 am** **Opening of Forum - Samuel Martinez, Chairman
Mountain Plains Federal Regional Council**
**Welcome - The Honorable Richard Lamm, Governor
State of Colorado**
**Welcome - The Honorable William McNichols, Mayor
City of Denver**
- 9:10 am** **Introductions and Remarks**
Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller
- 9:30 am** **Resource Development and the Environment**
Frank Zarb, Administrator, Federal Energy Administration
Kent Frizzell, Under Secretary Designate, Department
of Interior
Witnesses:
The Hon. Richard Lamm, Governor, State of Colorado
The Hon. Calvin Rampton, Governor, State of Utah
The Hon. Robert Pettigrew, Mayor, Casper, Wyoming
Tony Dechant, National President, Farmers Union,
Denver, Colorado
- 10:15 am** **Discussion**
- 10:55 am** **Economic Recovery**
John Dunlop, Secretary, Department of Labor
Witnesses:
Francis H. May, Executive Vice President,
Johns-Manville Corporation, Englewood, Colorado
John J. Donlon, Business Manager, Colorado Building
and Construction Trades Council, Denver, Colorado
- 11:15 am** **Discussion**
- 11:30 am** **Social Policy**
F. David Mathews, Secretary, Department of Health,
Education and Welfare
Witnesses:
Donald A. Bierle, Attorney, Counsel to South Dakota
Hospital Association, Yankton, South Dakota
Kenneth W. Kindelsperger, Dean, Graduate School of
Social Work, University of Denver, Denver, Colorado
- 11:45 am** **Discussion**
- 12:30 pm** **Adjournment**

**AFTERNOON SESSION
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE
ENVIRONMENT
Junior Ballroom**

Energy

1:30 pm Kent Frizzell, Under Secretary Designate, Department of Interior
John Hill, Deputy Administrator, Federal Energy Administration *

Witnesses:

Bob Burch, President, Buckingham Square National Bank
Former President Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association, Aurora, Colorado
Mort Winston, President, The Oil Shale Company (TOSCO) Los Angeles, California
Ms. Laney Hicks, Northern Plains Representative, Sierra Club, Dubois, Wyoming
Olie Webb, Director, Environmental Affairs, Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry, Denver, Colorado *
Dr. Frank Kreith, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado

2:10 pm **Discussion**

Water Resources

2:50 pm **Witnesses:**
Jack Barnett, Executive Director, Western State Water Council, Salt Lake City, Utah
Bob Weaver, Executive Director, Colorado Council of Trout Unlimited, Denver, Colorado
Frank B. Friedman, Attorney, Atlantic Richfield Company, Los Angeles, California
Charles W. Margolf, Director of Operations, W. R. Grace Company, Denver, Colorado

3:15 pm **Discussion**

Land Use

3:45 pm **Witnesses:**
John Bermingham, Vice President, Colorado Land Use Commission, Denver, Colorado
Ms. Vim Wright, Colorado Open Space Council, Denver, Colorado
Mike Strang, Rancher and Panel Member, Oil Shale Advisory Panel, Carbondale, Colorado
Frank Morison, Attorney, Former Chairman, American Bar Association, "Land Use Review Commissioner," Denver, Colorado
Patrick Stands Over Bull, Chief, Crow Tribe, Crow Agency, Montana. **

4:15 pm **Discussion**

4:50 pm **Adjournment**

* Unable to attend. Jack W. Carlson, Assistant Secretary for Energy and Minerals, Department of the Interior, and William Rosenberg, Assistant Administrator for Energy Resources Development, Federal Energy Administration, added to panel.

** Represented by Angela Russell.

**AFTERNOON SESSION
SOCIAL PROGRAMS
Conference Room No. 1**

Health Services and Delivery

1:30 pm F. David Mathews, Secretary, Department of Health,
Education and Welfare*

Witnesses:

William A. Hines, M.D., Swedish Hospital, Englewood,
Colorado
Joseph S. Pollard, Jr., M.D., President, Colorado
Medical Society, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Ms. Nitia Pachak, Executive Director, Colorado Congress
of Senior Organization, Denver, Colorado
Donald G. Derry, Executive Vice President, Allied
Colorado Foundation for Medical Care, Denver, Colorado
Webster Two Hawk, Director, Institute of Indian Studies,
University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota.

2:10 pm Discussion

Income Transfer Programs

3:15 pm Witnesses:

Charline Birkins, Assistant Director, Colorado State
Department of Social Services, Denver, Colorado
Orlando Romero, Director, Denver Department of Social
Services, Denver, Colorado
Hiawatha Davis, Director, East Side Action Movement,
Denver, Colorado
Raymond Kimball, President, Colorado Association of
Commerce and Industry, Denver, Colorado

3:40 pm Discussion

4:30 pm Adjournment

* William Morrill, Assistant Secretary for Planning and
Evaluation, Department of Health, Education and Welfare,
added to panel.

**AFTERNOON SESSION
ECONOMIC RECOVERY
Conference Room No. 2**

- 1:30 pm** John T. Dunlop, Secretary, Department of Labor
Wilmer Mizell, Administrator, Economic Development
Agency, Department of Commerce *
- Witnesses:
Edward R. Lucero, Chairman, Colorado Economic
Development Association, Denver, Colorado
Robert L. Shelton, Executive Director, Denver
Opportunities Industrialization Center, Denver, Colorado
Max Bailey, Master, Kansas State Grange, Della, Kansas
- 2:00 pm** Discussion
- Employment/Unemployment**
- 2:55 pm** Witnesses:
Jim Murry, Executive Secretary, Montana State AFL-CIO
Helena, Montana
Richard Wright, President, Mountain States Employers
Council, Denver, Colorado
Victor Grandy, President, United Veterans Committee,
Denver, Colorado
Len Avilla, Farmworker Investigator, Rural Legal
Services, Denver, Colorado
- 3:25 pm** Discussion
- 4:30 pm** Adjournment

* Bert Concklin, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Occupational
Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor,
added to panel.

DENVER FORUM PARTICIPANTS

The following is a listing of persons who contributed statements -- oral, written, or both -- to the Public Forum on Domestic Policy in Denver, Colorado. The list includes invited witnesses and observers, and the general public.

Duane Acker
President
Kansas State University
Manhattan, Kansas

Fred E. Anderson
President
State Senate
Denver, Colorado

Len Avilla
Rural Legal Services
Denver, Colorado

Max Bailey
Kansas State Grange
Della, Kansas

Nathan L. Beatty
Denver, Colorado

Ezra Taft Benson
President
Council of the Twelve Apostles
The Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints
Salt Lake City, Utah

John Bermingham
Vice President
Colorado Land Use Commission
Denver, Colorado

Donald A. Bierle
Counsel to South Dakota Hospital
Association
Yankton, South Dakota

Charline Birkins
Assistant Director
Colorado State Department of
Social Services
Denver, Colorado

F. N. Bosco
Executive Director
CII, Inc.
Golden, Colorado

Thadis W. Box
Dean
Utah State University
Logan, Utah

Arvid B. Brekke
President
Colorado Hospital Association
Denver, Colorado

Clark A. Buckler
Executive Director
Colorado Counties, Inc.
Denver, Colorado

Patrick Stands Over Bull
Chief
Crow Tribe
Crow Agency, Montana

Bob Burch
President
Buckingham Square National Bank
Aurora, Colorado

Jack Burnett
Executive Director
Western State Water Council
Salt Lake City, Utah

Tom Chagolla
Colorado Department of Human
Resources
Denver, Colorado

Richard P. Cullen
President
Independent Petroleum Association
of the Mountain States
Denver, Colorado

The Right Reverend William Davidson
Episcopal Church Bishop of
Western Kansas
Salina, Kansas

Hiawatha Davis
Director
East Side Action Movement
Denver, Colorado

Ernest H. Dean
President
State Senate
Salt Lake City, Utah

Tony Dechant
National President
Farmers Union
Denver, Colorado

Donald G. Derry
Executive Vice President
Allied Colorado Foundation for
Medical Care
Denver, Colorado

John J. Donlon
Business Manager
Colorado Building and Construction
Trades Council
Denver, Colorado

Patricia Duncombe
Chairperson
Wyoming Commission on the Status
of Women
Ethete, Wyoming

Esther R. Edie
South Dakota Environmental Coalition
Brookings, South Dakota

Willa Dale Evans
President
Mountain Plains Congress of Senior
Organizations
Denver, Colorado

Frank B. Friedman
Atlantic Richfield Company
Los Angeles, California

Lennox E. Gilmer
President
Colorado Association of Collegiate
Veterans
Boulder, Colorado

Harry Graber
Denver, Colorado

Victor Grandy
President
United Veterans Committee
Denver, Colorado

Webster Two Hawk
Director
Institute of Indian Studies
University of South Dakota
Vermillion, South Dakota

Judith B. Henning
Chairperson
Colorado Commission on the Status
of Women
Denver, Colorado

Laney Hicks
Northern Plains Representative
Sierra Club
Dubois, Wyoming

Rose Crow Flies High
Chairperson
Tribal Business Council
Fort Berthold Reservation
North Dakota

William A. Hines
Swedish Hospital
Englewood, Colorado

Loren Hotz
Common Market Cooperative, Inc.
Denver, Colorado

E. A. Hunter
President
Utah Power & Light Company
Salt Lake City, Utah

Samuel Jacobs
Denver, Colorado

Jeannine James
President
Colorado Springs Family Day Care
Association
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Rex Jennings
President
Denver Chamber of Commerce
Denver, Colorado

Byron L. Johnson
Professor
University of Colorado at Denver
Denver, Colorado

Reed Kelley
ROMCOE
Denver, Colorado

Raymond Kimball
President
Colorado Association of Commerce
and Industry
Denver, Colorado

Kenneth W. Kindelsperger
Dean
Graduate School of Social Work
University of Denver
Denver, Colorado

Harry Kinney
Mayor
Albuquerque, New Mexico

John Klinker
President
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation
Lincoln, Nebraska

Sister Anna Koap
Denver Catholic Community Services
Denver, Colorado

Steven D. Kohlert
Executive Director
Intermountain Regional Medical
Program

Frank Kreith
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado

Richard Lamm
Governor of Colorado
Denver, Colorado

Eugene Lightenberg
Assistant Program Administrator
South Dakota Department of Social
Services
Rapid City, South Dakota

Edward R. Lucero
Chairman
Colorado Economic Development
Association
Denver, Colorado

Charles W. Margolf
Director of Operations
W. R. Grace Company
Denver, Colorado

Annette Marquez
President
League of Women Voters of Lincoln-
Lancaster County
Lincoln, Nebraska

Francis H. May
Executive Vice President
Johns-Manville Corporation
Englewood, Colorado

H. F. McKinley
Business Manager
The Evergreens Nursing Home
Limon, Colorado

Wallace D. McRae
Northern Plains Resource Council

Wilbert Moehrke
Denver, Colorado

Frank Morison
Former Chairman
American Bar Association
Denver, Colorado

Jim Murry
Executive Secretary
Montana State AFL-CIO
Helena, Montana

George O'Connor
President
Montana Power Company
Butte, Montana

Frances O'Donnell
Denver, Colorado

Nitia Pachak
Executive Director
Colorado Congress of Senior
Organizations
Denver, Colorado

Joe Padilla
Editor
ECO Publications
Denver, Colorado

Edna Oliver Parents
Mile High Child Care Association
Edna Oliver Child Center
Denver, Colorado

Robert Pettigrew
Mayor
Casper, Wyoming

Wendell Pierce
Executive Director
Education Commission of the States
Denver, Colorado

Nicholas Pohlit
Executive Director
National Environmental Health
Association
Denver, Colorado

Joseph S. Pollard, Jr.
President
Colorado Medical Society
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Calvin Rampton
Governor of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah

Elsa Reynolds
Denver, Colorado

Gina Rieke
President
League of Women Voters of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah

Orlando Romero
Director
Denver Department of Social Services
Denver, Colorado

Robert L. Shelton
Executive Director
Denver Opportunities Industrialization
Center
Denver, Colorado

Charley J. Smyth
Director
General Rose Memorial Hospital
Denver, Colorado

Lois Solawetz
Chairman
Task Force on Food Stamps
Denver, Colorado

Mike Strang
Panel Member
Oil Shale Advisory Panel
Carbondale, Colorado

Carol Lynn Streamer
Boulder, Colorado

Henry Talbert
Western Regional Director
National Urban League
Denver, Colorado

Maury M. Travis
Denver, Colorado

Beatrice Villaneuva
Denver, Colorado

John M. Wade
Utah Interchurch Coalition
Salt Lake City, Utah

Bob Weaver
Executive Director
Colorado Council of Trout Unlimited
Denver, Colorado

Olie Webb
Director
Environmental Affairs
Colorado Association of Commerce
and Industry
Denver, Colorado

Norman Weckerly
Chairman
North Dakota State Wheat Commission
Hurdsdale, North Dakota

Glen L. Westberg
President
Black Hills Forest Resources Association
Whitewood, South Dakota

Mort Winston
President
The Oil Shale Company (TOSCO)
Los Angeles, California

Marlene Wiske
President
League of Women Voters of Colorado
Denver, Colorado

Richard Wright
President
Mountain States Employers Council
Denver, Colorado

Vim Wright
Colorado Open Space Council
Denver, Colorado

MOUNTAIN PLAINS FEDERAL REGIONAL COUNCIL

The Federal Regional Councils were established by Presidential Executive Order in 1972 for the purpose of coordinating Federal Domestic Programs on the regional level.

- Members of the Mountain Plains Federal Regional Council**
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- Department of Health, Education and Welfare —
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- Department of Housing and Urban Development —
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