

**Ferdie J. Deering**

## **Bureaus Still Headless Branch in U.S.**

**A** 1937 presidential committee report called federal agencies "a headless fourth branch of the government, a haphazard deposit of irresponsible agencies and uncoordinated powers."

What we had then was only a beginning, compared to the number, size and power of federal bureaus today. Most came into existence in response to requests from groups of voters, or on motivation from congressmen seeking re-election. Many bureaus possess authority to write their own "laws" and power to enforce them.

People seem to be realizing what this bureaucracy is doing and can do to a government of the people. "Big Government" is a system in which affairs are directed by professional officials. It does not lend itself to majority rule by voters. Such centralization of power has led to dictatorships in many countries.

Colorado is considering a plan called the "Sunset Law," which might make a good federal law. It would force automatic termination

of regulatory agencies every seven years, unless the legislature specifically renewed them.

Tom Milam, Oklahoma City engineer, proposes an even more drastic "Anniversary Amendment," under which all laws would expire at the end of 25 years. He believes that this plan would wipe out unnecessary and outdated laws by the thousands.

"It isn't regulation people are against, but regulation that is ineffective or worse," says Forbes magazine.

A survey of reader opinion on government regulation is being made by Nation's Business magazine. Because regulators say they are only carrying out orders and Congress says it never intended for agencies to go as far as they have, the editors say "It is no wonder, therefore, that many in the business world feel their companies are coming more and more under control of unseen, unknown bureaucrats answerable to no one."

Individuals, farmers and institutions are expressing the same sort of

feeling with increasing vehemence and frequency.

Recently, President Ford directed federal officials to reduce the amount of information collected from business and the public at least 10 per cent by June. A move also has been started at the White House to create a new commission to study ways of streamlining the bureaucracy.

Some congressmen have tried to do something about the problem. Sen. Henry Bellmon, R-Okla., has offered bills to restore veto power over regulations of agencies to congressional committees. None of his bills apparently ever got out of committee.

Rep. Glenn English, D-Okla., introduced two bills last fall to accomplish essentially the same thing. They are pending.

In trying to do something for everybody, from the cradle to the grave, Congress has created a monster that may be bigger than it is. Does Congress have courage to cut it down to size?

# JAGD INVESTMENT COMPANY

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Mr. Ferdie J. Deering  
c/o Mr. Charles L. Bennett  
Daily Oklahoman  
P. O. Box 25125  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Sirs:

Your article "Bureaus Still Headless Branch in U.S.", April 15, 1976, was super good. I encourage you to print more articles along this line.

Thanks very much,

  
Kenneth R. Jagd  
Jagd Investment Company

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