

## Even Carter Throws Up Hands On Reading New Regulations

**P**RESIDENT Carter has given up on requiring cabinet officials to read all new regulations their respective departments impose on the public. The public was not given such an exemption.

The order was rescinded because bureaus and agencies are issuing regulations faster than they can be read by anybody. How can they be observed if they cannot be read?

A major part of new regulations seem to be directed toward businesses and industries. So far, regulations affecting individuals relate largely to tax and welfare matters, but as environmental, water and land use controls are extended, more and more individuals are apt to become directly involved as property owners.

Businessmen complain that pa-

perwork requirements are about as burdensome as taxes. Large firms may be able to pay for extra workers by boosting prices, but small ones are strapped.

A while back, W.E. Alexander of Ponca City explained in a letter to the Chamber of Commerce of the United States what he and other small businessmen are up against.

Alexander pointed out what a small businessman must do in order just to find out what federal reports he is required to file, especially if his company is growing.

He must spend valuable time reading mail from various government agencies.

He must subscribe to one or more tax advisory services and spend more time reading their bulletins.

He must hire accountants and clerks to gather the information and prepare the required reports.

He must employ the services of independent certified public accountants to be sure his reports are correct.

Finally, he must lie awake nights worrying about government agencies yet to be heard from.

On Oct. 3, 1975, the Commission on Federal Paperwork started out to study the problem. According to reports, it has made some progress but at the rate new regulations are being issued, the paperwork commission may be like a small plane flying into a high wind. It may be going full speed but losing ground.

This commission has until Oct. 3, 1977, to complete its task. So far, more than 100 "formal and informal" recommendations have been made to cut paperwork and red tape. Congress has enacted two of five initial legislative recommendations made or endorsed by the commission. Others are pending in Congress and elsewhere.

An obvious and logical solution to the problem of excessive regulations does not seem to have occurred to heads of the rule-making factories in Washington.

All that was needed was to declare a moratorium or "speed limit" on new regulations, so that cabinet members and the public could catch up on those we already have!