

Bureaucracy's Reasoning 'Nonsense'

ONE day recently, President Carter told the Los Angeles Bar Association that the country is "over-lawyered and under-represented."

He proposed to improve the situation by appointing more judges because they are women or because of their race. He also proposed more legal aid (federal subsidies) for certain groups.

The following day, in Spokane, the president denounced the American Medical Association as "the major obstacle to progress" in health care. Carter has been urging adoption of a federal health care system which many regard as a form of socialized medicine.

These are examples of a continual, not-so-subtle drive to let the bureaucracy take over.

Undoubtedly, lawyers, doctors and others need to improve their services and public images. But can the government practice law or medicine, or run businesses, more satisfactorily than private enter-

prise has been doing or can do in a free country?

Many overt efforts have been made by officials, some congressmen and numerous social reformers to have the federal government take charge of utilities, schools, corporate boards, energy and various industries. To a considerable degree they have succeeded.

Nation's Business magazine reports that business leaders anticipate the administration's voluntary wage and price restraints will evolve into mandatory controls within two years.

Bureaus still are somewhat limited in specifying what people may eat, drink, smoke, use, read or hear, but the campaign goes on for the government to decide all of these things for us.

Experts have pointed out that through regulation, government can disrupt established markets by requiring or prohibiting business practices. Regulations affect costs of one firm's products in relations to

competitors and may set price structures that are paid by consumers. Regulations also require formulas and other valuable trade secrets to be exposed to the eyes of competitors.

"We should stop from time to time and remember that this country was not built by people fleeing from big and oppressive government," says Dr. Richard L. Leshner, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. "Jefferson said that the natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground. Left to its own devices, government will indeed gain ground."

An editorial in Nation's Business says, "Political rhetoric frequently leans heavily on the implied assurance that government can insulate individual citizens from economic reality."

Such reasoning is called "simplistic nonsense" which must be eliminated before national problems can be solved.