

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith Reorganization Plan No. 17 of 1950, prepared in accordance with the Reorganization Act of 1949. The plan transfers the functions of the General Services Administration relating to the advance planning of non-Federal public works and the management and disposal of certain war public works to the Housing and Home Finance Agency. My reasons for transmitting this plan are stated in an accompanying general message.

After investigation I have found and hereby declare that each reorganization included in Reorganization Plan No. 17 is necessary to accomplish one or more of the purposes set forth in section 2(a) of the Reorganization Act of 1949.

The first of the transfers provided for by this plan will result in the more economical administration of those activities of the Federal Government which are concerned with the over-all planning and development of communities. The concentration of responsibility in a single agency will make it possible to so integrate administration as to avoid duplication of technical staffs and to simplify relationships with State and local agencies. Moreover, by reducing the likelihood that the two programs involved will be administered at cross-purposes or in conflict with each other, it can be expected that the money expended will achieve greater benefits than would be likely under the present distribution of responsibility. It is not, however, possible to itemize the reduction in expenditures which will result, chiefly because both programs are of recent origin and are still undergoing expansion.

The transfer of the war public works functions will lead to modest savings by consolidating the responsibility for the management and disposal of all properties built or acquired under the Lanham Act of 1940, as amended, in the Agency which already has the greater part of the total job. The fact that it will become possible to manage and dispose of public facilities serving emergency housing developments without the interagency negotiation which is now necessary will lead to economies, although they cannot be itemized or predicted with exactness.

HARRY S. TRUMAN.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 13, 1950.

REORGANIZATION PLAN NO. 18 OF 1950

Eff. July 1, 1950, 15 F.R. 3177, 64 Stat. 1270

Prepared by the President and transmitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives in Congress assembled, March 13, 1950, pursuant to the provisions of the Reorganization Act of 1949, approved June 20, 1949 [see 5 U.S.C. 901 et seq.].

BUILDING AND SPACE MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS**SECTION 1. TRANSFER OF SPACE ASSIGNMENT AND LEASING FUNCTIONS**

All functions with respect to acquiring space in buildings by lease, and all functions with respect to assigning and reassigning space in buildings for use by agencies (including both space acquired by lease and space in Government-owned buildings), are hereby transferred from the respective agencies in which such functions are now vested to the Administrator of General Services, exclusive, however, of all such functions with respect to—

(a) space in buildings located in any foreign country;
(b) space in buildings which are located on the grounds of any fort, camp, post, arsenal, Navy yard, naval training station, airfield, proving ground, military supply depot, or school, or of any similar facility, of the Department of Defense, unless and to such extent as a permit for its use shall have been issued by the Secretary of Defense or his duly authorized representative;

(c) space occupied by the Post Office Department in post-office buildings and space acquired by lease for post-office purposes; and

(d) space in other Government-owned buildings which the Administrator of General Services finds are wholly or predominantly utilized for the special purposes of the agency having the custody thereof and are not generally suitable for the use of other agencies (including but not limited to hospitals, housing, laboratories, mints, manufacturing plants, and penal institutions), and space acquired by lease for any such purpose:

Provided, That the space needs of the Post Office Department shall be given priority in the assignment and reassignment of space in post office buildings.

SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF OFFICE BUILDING MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS

All functions with respect to the operation, maintenance, and custody of office buildings owned by the Government and of office buildings or parts thereof acquired by lease, including those post-office buildings which, as determined by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, are not used predominantly for post-office purposes, are hereby transferred from the respective agencies in which now vested to the Administrator of General Services, exclusive, however, of all such functions with respect to—

(a) any building located in any foreign country;

(b) any building located on the grounds of any fort, camp, post, arsenal, navy yard, naval training station, air field, proving ground, military supply depot, or school, or of any similar facility, of the Department of Defense, unless and to such extent as a permit for its use by another agency or agencies shall have been issued by the Secretary of Defense or his duly authorized representative;

(c) any building which the Administrator of General Services finds to be a part of a group of buildings which are (1) located in the same vicinity, (2) are utilized wholly or predominantly for the special purposes of the agency having custody thereof, and (3) are not generally suitable for the use of other agencies; and

(d) the Treasury Building, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing Building, the buildings occupied by the National Bureau of Standards, and the buildings under the jurisdiction of the regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

[References to National Bureau of Standards deemed to refer to National Institute of Standards and Technology pursuant to section 5115(c) of Pub. L. 100-418, set out as a Change of Name note under 15 U.S.C. 271.]

SEC. 3. PERFORMANCE OF TRANSFERRED FUNCTIONS

(a) The Administrator of General Services may from time to time make such provisions as he shall deem appropriate authorizing the performance by any other officer, or by any agency or employee, of the General Services Administration of any function transferred to such Administrator by the provisions of this reorganization plan.

(b) When authorized by the Administrator of General Services, any function transferred to him by the provisions of this reorganization plan may be performed by the head of any agency of the executive branch of the Government or, subject to the direction and control of any such agency head, by such officers, employees, and organizational units under the jurisdiction of such agency head as such agency head may designate: *Provided*, That functions with respect to post-office buildings shall not be delegated under the authority of this subsection to the head of any agency other than the Postmaster General.

(c) The Administrator of General Services shall prescribe such regulations as he deems desirable for the economical and effective performance of the functions transferred by the provisions of this reorganization plan.

SEC. 4. TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL, PROPERTY, RECORDS, AND FUNDS

There shall be transferred from time to time, between the agencies concerned and for use in connection with

the functions transferred by the provisions of this reorganization plan, so much of the personnel, property, records, and unexpended balances (available or to be made available) of appropriations, allocations, and other funds, relating to such functions, as may be necessary for the performance of said functions. Such further measures and dispositions as the Director of the Bureau of the Budget shall determine to be necessary in order to effectuate the transfers provided for in this section shall be carried out in such manner as the Director shall direct and by such agencies as he shall designate.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

The provisions of this reorganization plan shall take effect on the 1st day of July, 1950.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith Reorganization Plan No. 18 of 1950, prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Reorganization Act of 1949. The plan transfers to the Administrator of General Services the functions of the various Federal agencies with respect to leasing and assigning general-purpose space in buildings and the operation, maintenance, and custody of office buildings. Since such authority is already largely concentrated in the General Services Administration with respect to the District of Columbia, the plan principally relates to the administration of these functions in the field.

The transfers made by this plan will promote more economical leasing, better utilization of building space, and more efficient operation of Government-controlled office buildings. They will effectuate the recommendations of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government with respect to concentrating in the General Services Administration the responsibility for space allotment and the operation of Government buildings outside of the District of Columbia. Likewise, they will extend the principles laid down by the Congress in enacting the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 to another important area of Government-wide administrative services—the administration of Government office buildings and general-purpose building space in the field.

Within the District of Columbia, one agency, the Public Buildings Service of the General Services Administration, has long had the operation and custody of most Government buildings and the leasing and assignment of space for executive agencies. Thus, nearly all requests for building space are handled by a single organization which is responsible for seeing that agencies are properly and efficiently housed. This arrangement has proved its worth and has repeatedly been approved by the Congress.

Outside of the National Capital, however, responsibility for the acquisition and control of building space and the operation of Government buildings is widely diffused. A variety of agencies operate and control general-purpose buildings. If quarters are not available in Federal buildings, each agency ordinarily does its own leasing. As a result, in some cases Federal agencies have contracted for space at high rentals at the very time that other agencies have been giving up surplus low-cost space.

The assignment of space in Government-owned buildings outside of Washington is also divided among a number of agencies. While the Public Buildings Service constructs a large part of the Government buildings, it operates and controls the assignment of space in only a small proportion of them. The Post Office Department operates and allocates the space in post-office buildings, several hundred of which contain substantial amounts of office space available for other agencies. During and immediately after the war several other Federal agencies acquired office buildings in the field. As their activities have contracted, surplus space in many of these structures has become available for other uses.

This plan concentrates in the General Services Administration the responsibility for the leasing and assignment of what is termed general-purpose building space; that is, space which is suitable for the uses of a number of Federal agencies. It specifically excludes space in buildings at military posts, arsenals, navy yards, and similar defense installations and space in hospitals, laboratories, factories, and other special-purpose buildings.

Also, the plan excludes the Post Office Department from the transfer of leasing authority since the Department has a highly developed organization for this purpose, and it limits the transfer of space assignment authority in post-office buildings to the space not occupied by the Department. Further, it gives the needs of the Post Office Department priority in the assignment of space in post-office buildings. Thus, the plan amply safeguards the interests of the Post Office Department while making it possible to include the general office space in post-office buildings in any given city with other similar space under Federal control in planning and executing an efficient program for housing Government agencies in that area.

In addition, the plan transfers to the General Services Administration the operation, maintenance, and custody of office buildings owned or leased by the Government, including those post-office buildings which are not used predominantly for post-office purposes. This will make it possible to establish a single organization for the operation and maintenance of Government office buildings in principal cities in the field as has proved desirable in the National Capital. Since many post offices are in fact primarily large office buildings, the plan includes in this transfer the post-office buildings which are not used predominantly for post-office purposes. This will relieve the Post Office Department of a considerable expenditure for building operation and maintenance which properly should not be charged against postal revenues.

While the plan effects a broad transfer of functions with respect to leasing and assignment of space and the operation and maintenance of office buildings, it specifically authorizes the Administrator of General Services to delegate the performance of any part of these functions to other agencies subject to such regulations as he deems desirable for economical and effective administration. In this the plan follows the pattern adopted by the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 for other branches of property management. In large urban centers where numerous Federal units are located unified administration of space activities by the General Services Administration will normally be advantageous. On the other hand, in the smaller communities it will no doubt be desirable to delegate the work back to the agencies directly affected, to be carried on under standards laid down by the Administrator of General Services. The plan provides ample flexibility for working out the most effective administrative arrangement for each type of situation.

The fundamental soundness and economy of centralized administration of building space have been amply demonstrated in the National Capital. By virtue of unified control it has been possible since the war to accomplish far-reaching changes which have consolidated agencies in much fewer locations, released many of the rented buildings, and greatly reduced the cost of housing the Government establishment. Similar procedures applied in the larger centers of field activity should produce substantial savings.

After investigation, I have found, and hereby declare, that each reorganization contained in this plan is necessary to accomplish one or more of the purposes set forth in section 2(a) of the Reorganization Act of 1949.

While it is not possible at this time to calculate the reduction in expenditures which will result from this plan, it can safely be predicted that it will produce substantial savings. I am confident that this reorganization plan will constitute a significant improvement in Federal business practice and will bring about an im-

portant increase in efficiency in housing Government agencies.

HARRY S. TRUMAN.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 13, 1950.

REORGANIZATION PLAN NO. 19 OF 1950

Reorg. Plan No. 19 of 1950, 15 F.R. 3178, 64 Stat. 1271, which related to employees' compensation functions, was repealed by Pub. L. 89-554, §8(a), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 662. See sections 8145 and 8149 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

REORGANIZATION PLAN NO. 20 OF 1950

Eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3178, 64 Stat. 1272

Prepared by the President and transmitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives in Congress assembled, March 13, 1950, pursuant to the provisions of the Reorganization Act of 1949, approved June 20, 1949 [see 5 U.S.C. 901 et seq.].

STATUTES AT LARGE AND OTHER MATTERS

SECTION 1. FUNCTIONS TRANSFERRED FROM DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES

There are hereby transferred to the Administrator of General Services the functions of the Secretary of State and the Department of State with respect to:

(a) The receipt and preservation of the original copies of bills, orders, resolutions, and votes (R.S. 204, as amended) [1 U.S.C. 106a];

(b) The publication of acts and joint resolutions in slip form and the compilation, editing, indexing, and publication of the United States Statutes at Large, except such functions with respect to treaties and other international agreements (1 U.S.C. 112; R.S. 204, as amended [1 U.S.C. 106a, 112; 44 U.S.C. 728]; R.S. 210, as amended [22 U.S.C. 2660; 44 U.S.C. 710]; R.S. 3805, as amended [44 U.S.C. 711]; R.S. 3806, as amended [44 U.S.C. 712]; Act of Jan. 12, 1895, 28 Stat. 609 and 615, as amended [44 U.S.C. 709-712, 728]; Act of April 12, 1904, 33 Stat. 587 [44 U.S.C. 729]);

(c) The certification and publication of amendments to the Constitution of the United States (R.S. 205 [1 U.S.C. 106b]) and the preservation of such amendments;

(d) Certificates of appointment of the electors of the President and Vice President and certificates of the votes of such electors for President and Vice President (3 U.S.C. 6, 11-13); and

(e) The collection, copying, arranging, editing, copy reading, and indexing of the official papers of the Territories (Act of March 3, 1925, 43 Stat. 1104, as amended; Act of July 31, 1945, 59 Stat. 510 [4 U.S.C. 141 et seq.]).

SEC. 2. ABOLITION OF FUNCTIONS

(a) The duty of the Secretary of State of procuring copies of all statutes of the several States is hereby abolished, but this shall not limit his authority to procure copies of such State statutes as may be needed in the performance of his functions (R.S. 206) [22 U.S.C. 2659].

(b) The duty of the Secretary of State of publishing Executive proclamations and treaties in a newspaper in the District of Columbia is hereby abolished (Act of July 31, 1876, 19 Stat. 105, as amended, 44 U.S.C. 321 [44 U.S.C. 3701]).

SEC. 3. PERFORMANCE OF TRANSFERRED FUNCTIONS

The Administrator of General Services may from time to time make such provisions as he shall deem appropriate authorizing the performance by any other officer, or by any agency or employee, of the General Services Administration of any function transferred to such Administrator by the provisions of this reorganization plan.

SEC. 4. TRANSFER OF RECORDS, PROPERTY, PERSONNEL, AND FUNDS

There are hereby transferred to the General Services Administration, to be used, employed, and expended in

connection with the functions transferred by the provisions of this reorganization plan, the records and property now being used or held in connection with such functions, the personnel employed in connection with such functions, and the unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds available or to be made available for use in connection with such functions. Such further measures and dispositions as the Director of the Bureau of the Budget shall determine to be necessary in order to effectuate the transfers provided for in this section shall be carried out in such manner as the Director shall direct and by such agencies as he shall designate.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith Reorganization Plan No. 20 of 1950, prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Reorganization Act of 1949. This plan transfers from the Secretary of State to the Administrator of General Services a number of functions which have no connection with foreign affairs but bear a close relation to the archival and records functions of the General Services Administration.

Since its establishment in 1789 the Department of State has performed certain routine secretarial and recordkeeping functions for the Federal Government which are entirely extraneous to its basic mission with respect to the conduct of foreign relations. While these activities do not properly belong in the Department, they were assigned to it and continued under its jurisdiction for want of an appropriate agency for their performance. At present these functions consist of the preservation and publication of laws, the preparation and publication of the Statutes at Large, the certification and publication of constitutional amendments, the receipt and preservation of certificates of Presidential electors and of electoral votes, and the compilation and publication of Territorial papers.

Through the National Archives and Records Service the General Services Administration is especially staffed and equipped for the conduct of activities of these types. It is the principal custodian of the official records of the Government. Under the Federal Register Act and the Administrative Procedure Act, it preserves and publishes in the Federal Register the Executive orders, proclamations, and other principal executive documents and it codifies and publishes the rules and regulations promulgated by the various departments and agencies. This work is generally similar in nature to, and much greater in volume than, that performed by the Department of State with respect to constitutional amendments, laws, and proclamations. Consequently, the consolidation of these activities of the State Department with the archival and records activities of the General Services Administration should make for greater efficiency and economy. The plan, however, does not transfer the custody and publication of treaties and international agreements, since they are matters of special concern to the Department of State and it is the agency most competent to edit such documents.

The handling of the certificates of Presidential electors and the compilation and publication of Territorial papers also more appropriately belong in the General Services Administration. The first is largely a matter of record keeping and the second of archival research. The preparation of the Territorial papers involves the compilation and editing of official documents of the various Territories formerly existing within the United States. The greater part of this material is now in the National Archives and the work involved is generally similar to that being performed by it with respect to other groups of public records.

In addition, the plan abolishes two statutory duties of the Secretary of State which have become obsolete. The first is the duty of procuring copies of all State statutes as provided in the act of September 23, 1789 (R.S. 206). Inasmuch as the Library of Congress now has a complete collection of the State laws, it is no longer