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A major goal of this Administration has been to eliminate the tangle of government red tape and regulations and make it easier for private organizations, individuals and State and local governments to deal with the Federal Government. By Executive Order in March 1978, President Carter established a new framework for managing the regulatory process and making sure that the costs and compliance burdens of regulations are minimized. OMB's first report to the President disclosed that agencies are making concrete progress in getting increased top management attention on regulations, increasing public participation in the rulemaking process, increasing the time available for public comment on regulatory proposals, and in improving the clarity of regulations. More and more we are hearing from the public that they are beginning to see a difference in the regulatory practices of agencies. However, we know that there is much more work to be done to complete sunset reviews and existing regulations and to improve the quality of analysis done in support of major regulatory decisions.

--The most recent initiative taken by this Administration in these areas has been the establishment of an Office of Regulatory and Information Policy within the Office of Management and Budget. Headed by a new Assistant Director, this Office was set up to strengthen and upgrade OMB's analytical capabilities to identify and control the growing costs of government actions which are not reflected in the budget. It also reflects the President's determination that we continue to improve regulations, reduce Federal paperwork, and develop a comprehensive policy regarding the utilization of information systems within the Federal Government. The new Office will be responsible for policy oversight in all three of these areas.

OMB is taking a number of additional steps in the regulatory and information management area:

--To further improve the quality of regulatory decisions, we recently sponsored the first government-wide seminar on regulatory management. This conference provided a unique forum to open up lines of communication within and among agencies to identify and discuss common problems and to share proven solutions. For many, it was the first opportunity for those involved in regulatory decisions to come together for such discussions.

--Unless extended, E.O. 12044 expires on June 30, 1980. In May, OMB will make recommendations to the President regarding the future directions of the regulatory reform effort. We will shortly be asking for comments from the agencies and the public concerning their experiences with the Order and we will solicit recommendations on ways to improve the regulatory process.

--We are working closely with the Congress to put into law needed improvements in regulatory and paperwork management practices. We are encouraged that legislation in both of these areas will be passed by both Houses early in this legislative session.

--Paperwork reduction is a significant part of this Administration's efforts to reduce compliance burdens. Total time spent by the public filling out Federal forms has been reduced from 913 million hours per year to 786 million hours since President Carter took office.

--The President recently signed an Executive Order which established procedures to eliminate all paperwork burdens on the public and ensure compliance with Federal laws. The Order established the first Federal paperwork budget to set controls on reporting burden. It requires the development of a government-wide Federal Information Locator Systems to identify duplication in reporting requirements and requires special consideration of reporting requirements for small organizations.