

Chapter I

THE PRESIDENT AND THE DEPARTMENT--AN OVERVIEW

From November 1, 1968 to January 15, 1969, the Secretary of Agriculture made several reports to the White House. He also proposed that the President include material on agriculture and on rural programs in some of his forthcoming statements. ^{1/} However, none of the proposed statements were used nor did the President make other statements with respect to agriculture or to farm programs in the period from November 1, 1968 through January 14, 1969.

The proposed budget for 1970, released by President Johnson on January 15, 1969, called for a reduction of \$635 million in total budget authority for the Department in 1970, and for a similar reduction in budget outlay. The total for food assistance programs was increased from \$1,100 million in 1969 to a proposed \$1,400 million in 1970. A cut of \$95 million in budget authority for the agricultural conservation program was proposed, although most of this would not be reflected in budget outlay for 1970. An increase of \$94 million in budget authority was proposed for the Farmers Home Administration. The proposed budget authority for the Commodity Credit Corporation was cut from \$4,974 million in 1969 to \$3,599 million in 1970, while the estimated budget outlay in 1969 of \$3,770 million was cut to an estimated \$3,159 million.

^{1/} For example, Orville L. Freeman to Joseph A. Califano, Jr., Dec. 19, 1968. In: Orville L. Freeman, Chronological Correspondence Files, Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.