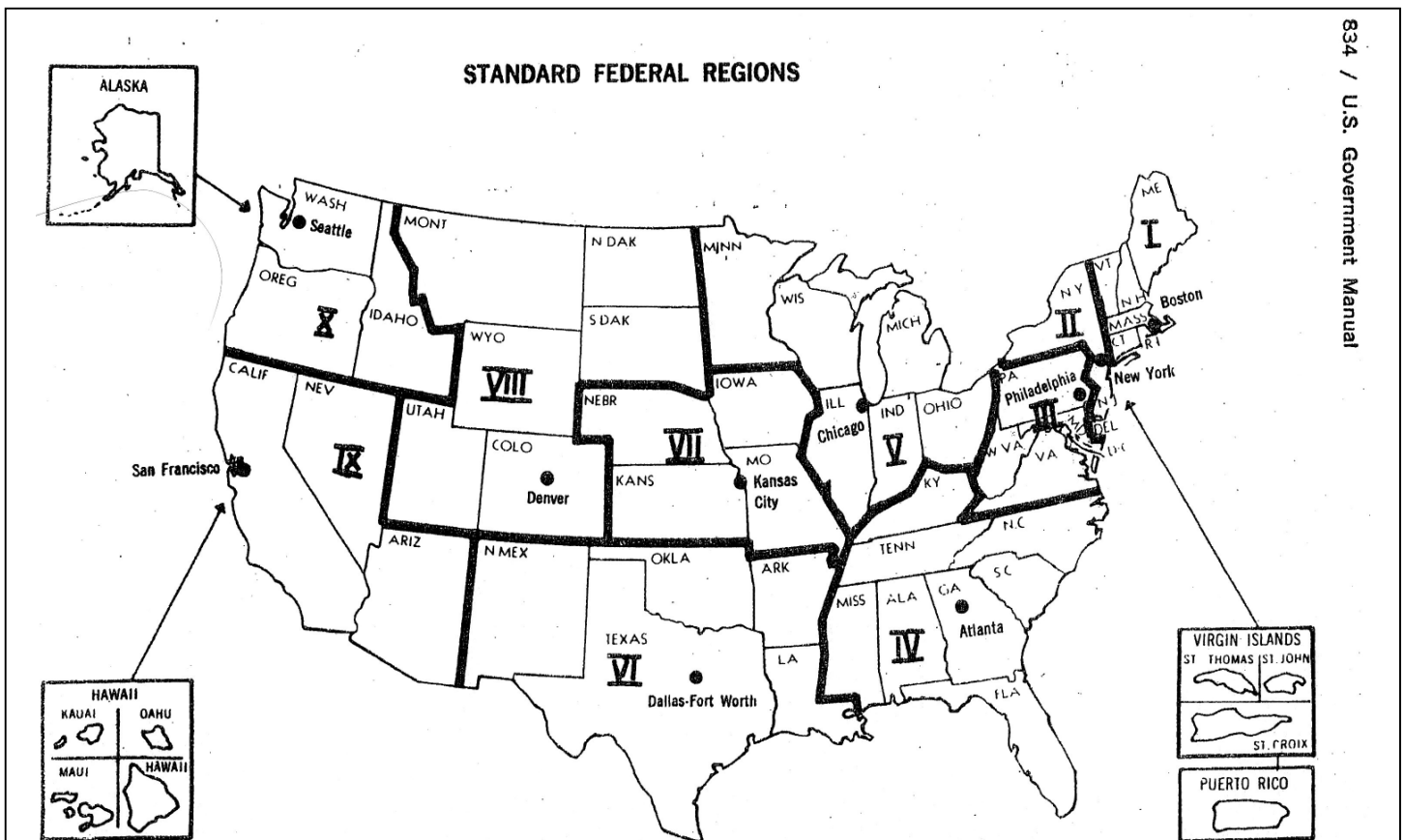


# The New Federalism

## *Regional Government*

by

Anne Garni



The New Federalism is not new. Neither is it federalism. It is nothing more than an extension of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. It was during the New Deal period that the idea of regionalism — abolishing our States; dividing the country into administrative regions and reorganizing the Federal government by shifting the powers of Congress to the Executive Office -- was first publicly aired.

The New Federalism is regionalism. Is it constitutional? Or is it socialistic? Is it national? Or is it international? what is your reaction to this: "Communism is as dead in the Soviet Union as constitutionalism is in the United States."1 That is a quote made by a very learned individual, Mary Davison, who followed the political evolution in our country during most of her lifetime by keeping up on the Congressional Records and the Chronicles of the United Nations. You may not agree with that statement. I know that I wouldn't have, before I served time on the City Council, but since then I have been doing a lot of research on my own and I pay little heed to what I read in the paper or hear on the radio or T.V. We have been programmed and conditioned by the media to react to symbols and cliches, not unlike Pavlov's dogs.

Listen to what John Swinton says about the press in a speech he made, as a New York Times editor, before an Annual Meeting of the American Press Association in 1914:

"There is no such thing as an independent press in America, if we except that of the small town papers, You know this, and I know it. No man among you dares to utter his honest opinion. Were you to utter it, you know beforehand that it would never appear in print.

"It is the duty of the New York journalist to lie, to distort, to revile, to toady at the feet of Mammon and to sell his country and his race for his daily bread or what amounts to the same thing — his salary.

"We are the tools and the vassals of the rich behind the scenes. We are marionettes. These men pull the strings and we dance. Our time, our talents, our lives, our capacities are all the property of these men. We are intellectual prostitutes."<sup>1</sup>

Most of the material used in this presentation comes from those who are supportive of regional government. It comes from the twisted minds of the social scientists who have robbed us of our heritage — our Constitutional Republic — and have replaced it with a bureaucratic dictatorship, subservient to the United Nations.

When elected to the City Council, I had a rude awakening. I learned that our City Charter restricted the elected members of the Council from interfering with the City Manager. In reading a little booklet that explained how the Council-Manager Plan worked, it said:

"The mayor, as presiding officer of the council, is the ceremonial head of the city. He is the official greeter, ribbon cutter, etc. In no case should he be considered the executive or administrative head of the city or so conduct himself to give others this impression."

The elected representatives of the people? The candidates who promised so much if they were elected? And now we find that they are just window dressing to make the public think that we still have representative government.

This is when I became aware of the power of the invisible government — the appointed bureaucracy — and the weakness of the visible government — the elected officials.

Research led me to the 1313 Center. for Public Administration — a building financed by the Rockefeller Foundation, located at 1313 East 60th Street in Chicago. The Rockefeller Foundation supported the many research groups working in the fields of public administration, the social sciences, economics and education. And like the editors and reporters of the news media, these researchers danced when their strings were pulled.

Chief among these social scientists who were headquartered at the 1313 Center was Charles E. Merriam who was Chairman of the Political Science Department of the University of Chicago during the 1930s.

Merriam served on the National Resources Committee under. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The Committee included in its membership, Harold Ickes, Henry Wallace, Frances Perkins, Harry Hopkins, Frederick Delano and Beardsley Ruml.

Merriam presented a proposal to President Roosevelt for managing the sprawling executive establishment. Roosevelt felt that this matter\_ was of such magnitude and importance that he appointed a committee which came to be known as the President's Committee on Administrative Management. The basic goal of this reorganization proposal was achieved when the 76th Congress passed the Reorganization Act of 1939. The Act also included a provision whereby the President would have continuing authority to initiate reorganization plans in the future.

Roosevelt's Committee on Administrative Management reassured 'those who questioned the proposals that: "The reorganization of the presidency was not going to make Roosevelt a dictator, and the continuation of a national planning board was not going to turn the country into a communist state. . . They were going to limit the access of Congress to influence on decisions made by administrative agencies of the government."<sup>2</sup>

The reorganization of the executive branch was accomplished during the New Deal period, which shifted the powers of Congress to the Executive Office of the President.

The National Resources Committee, in its 1935 Report, recommended a division of the United States into twelve administrative districts, with all districts reporting to a national coordinating agency responsible to the president. This division of the nation's resources would follow along "executive and administrative lines rather than congressional and political lines."

On April 21, 1935, an article appeared in the New York Times Magazine which told of the plans being considered by these social scientists. The headline read: "Nine' Groups Instead of the 48 States" and the subheading: "States Rights Would be Abolished and the Country Would Be Divided Into Nine Departments,"<sup>3</sup> The article explained that the New Deal brought to the fore urgent national problems that can be met only on a national scale; that State frontiers must cease to be barriers in the path of social advancement.

The report of the Commission on the\_ Social Studies determined that "If the school is to justify its maintenance and assume its responsibilities, it must recognize the new order and proceed to equip the rising generation to cooperate effectively in the increasingly interdependent society and to live rationally and well within its limitations and possibilities."<sup>4</sup>

This Commission was strongly influenced by George Counts. His "work in American school politics, his interest in educational methods in the Soviet Union, and his very deep respect for John Dewey had led him to conclusions which were to direct his prolific output for the next twenty years, as well as the work on the commission." He favored using "the school as the

thief vehicle for socializing the child. . . by teaching a respect for the necessary mechanisms of social and economic reform to the child, at as early an age as possible, could be the major force in the reforming of American capitalism. . . He believed in collectivism; he thought the experiments in the Soviet . Union the most exciting of his day. . . He followed Dewey in looking toward a unique American radicalism which the public schools could help attain." Dewey was committed "to the school as the laboratory for the reorganization of all social behavior. Most important of all, (these planners felt), one could reorganize American society without having to resort to the coercions of the State. . . Teaching teachers to teach the young would eventually produce cultural revolution to match technological change. The schools, not the state, would serve as the machinery to control cultural lag."<sup>5</sup>

On January 8, 1943, Governor Carr of Colorado addressed the Joint Session of the Legislature. "There exists in this country today a plan to commence the remodeling-of the lives of American freemen on a basis so dictatorial, so monarchistic, so bureaucratic that its very exposition proves its hostility to our American form of government. I predict that unless something intervenes to stop them, within six months, the details will be made public of schemes which will first shock and then absolutely astonish the householders, the taxpayers, the entire Americana citizenry. The basic complaint against these proposals is that they are against the theory of life which has built this country. The individual would be submerged utterly to bring him down to the plane of every unfortunate human regardless of his capacities and his potentialities. Freemen would no longer be permitted to function and to grow and to build and to produce for the improvement of themselves and their children, and for the everlasting benefit of mankind. Praise God, the ideals of the little red schoolhouse still continue to guide our educational systems."<sup>6</sup>

When Governor Carr's address hit the newspapers and the National Resources Planning Board members were contacted for comment, they denied any knowledge of it, which is not surprising. The public ignored the warning while the planners continued their schemes, and today, we have within the federal administration, the Department of Education.

H.G. Wells, in his book, "New Worlds for Old," said this about the Fabian Socialists:

"With them socialism ceased to be 'an open revolution, and became a plot. Functions were to be shifted quietly, unostentatiously, from the representative to the official he appointed. They worked like a ferment in municipal politics."

Merriam authored a book which was published in 1941 entitled: "On the Agenda of Democracy," in which he wrote:

"Fortunately, our Constitution is broad enough in its terms, flexible enough in its spirit, and capable of liberal enough interpretation by the judiciary to permit the adaptation of democracy to changing conditions without serious difficulty.

"Legislative bodies- are-incompetent, it may be said, or corrupt, or dilatory, or unrepresentative of the general interest of the community.

"The elective process is not favorable to the choice of the leaders of the community.

"The conclusion has been drawn by Hitler and others that the way out is the abolition of legislative bodies or their reduction to purely ceremonial bodies assembling to ratify, but not to deliberate upon, or to reject, proposals submitted to them."

The conclusions drawn by Hitler, along with the social scientists who shared his attitude toward legislative bodies, have become a reality in our present system of bureaucratic

management of elected officials.

Following the Roosevelt era, President Truman continued where Roosevelt left off. He appointed the First Hoover Commission the Commission on the Organization of the Executive Branch, 1947-48. This body's recommendations resulted in the passage of the Reorganization Act of 1949 which placed the National Security Council in the Executive Office of the President,<sup>7</sup> as well as the Central Intelligence Agency which is under the direction of the National Security Council. The American people lost their security, in my opinion when this Council was placed in the Executive Office of the President.

In 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed the Kestenbaum Commission which issued "the most comprehensive review of intergovernmental relations since the adoption of the Constitution."<sup>8</sup> This resulted in the formation of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR) which Congress established in 1959. ACIR was created in order to implement regional government by merging the Federal, State and local governments in what the planners refer to as a "partnership", but which, in fact, consolidates all control at the federal level of government. The ACIR is a permanent national body consisting of 26 members chosen from the Executive Branch, the Senate, the House, State Legislators, Governors, County and City officials, and the public. One of the first chairmen appointed to ACIR, incidentally, was the son of Charles E. Merriam Robert Merriam, and the evolution of "democracy" marched on.

Note how cleverly the ACIR maximizes its power: Quoting from one of its Reports:

"The Commission follows a multi-step procedure that assures review and comment by representatives. The Commission then debates each issue and formulates its policy positions. Commission findings and recommendations are published and draft bills and executive orders are developed to assist in implementing ACIR policies."<sup>9</sup>

In other words, the representatives may comment on ACIR policies, but the ACIR debates the issues and formulates its policies which it then develops into the drafting of bills and executive orders.

The Commission took credit, in its 1970 Report, for mapping out the agencies and establishing the plan for the ten Standard Federal Regions which it recommended in its 1967 Report.

This division of our country into federal regions — first suggested by President Roosevelt's National Resources Committee on which Charles Merriam served, was successfully carried out after being developed by the ACIR under the leadership of Chairman, Robert Merriam.

It was President Richard Nixon who "bit the bullet" as the media put it, and in 1969, he divided our country into the ten Standard Federal Regions. In 1972, by Executive Order (11647); Nixon appointed Councils for these regions, representing the various grantmaking agencies of the federal government. In 1973, he added two agencies to the councils (EO 11731). And, in 1975, President Gerald Ford continued the expansion of the councils (EO 11892). President Jimmy Carter, in 1979 signed executive order (12149) which again extended the system.

In an editorial in the ACIR's Intergovernmental Perspective, Robert Merriam said this:

"During his presidential campaign, Governor Carter skillfully, stressed his role as the 'outsider', and, while in the process of forming a new administration he has had to retreat somewhat from this position, the fact is that the 39th President will confront

the problems of American Federalism with a perspective not found in the last 30 years. Thus, the election of Governor Carter of Georgia must clearly rank in this writer's opinion, as the most significant development: or American Federalism in 1976."<sup>10</sup>

When President Ronald Reagan issued a press release on April 8, 1981, he said: "The Presidential Federalism Advisory Committee that I am forming today is a first step in helping to restore a proper Constitutional relationship between the Federal, state and local governments." And on July 30, 1981, in a newspaper article, Reagan stated that: "Today the federal government takes too much taxes from the people, too much authority from the states and too much liberty with the Constitution."<sup>11</sup>

But, while Reagan made this statement for the benefit of the public, he signed Executive Order 12314 which included the following:

"There is hereby restructured a Federal Regional Council for each of the ten Standard Federal Regions.

"The Office of Management and Budget will provide policy guidance to the Councils in consultation with the White House Office of Policy Development; establish policy with respect to Federal Regional Council procedural matters; seek to resolve policy issues referred to it by the Councils; coordinate Federal Regional Council activities relating to State and local governments with the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs; and, coordinate Council activities relating to specific programmatic areas with the appropriate Federal agencies. The Office of Management and Budget shall provide direction for, and oversight of, the implementation by the Councils of Federal management improvement actions and of Federal aid reform."

The New Federalism bypasses the legislative bodies at the Federal, State and local levels of government, and as you can see, the 1935 Report which the National Resources Committee proposed, which states that: "This division of the nation's resources would follow along executive and administrative lines rather than congressional and political lines" has been brought to imitation by all of our Presidents from Roosevelt to Reagan. They, too, have performed as "the tools and the vassals of the rich behind the scenes — the marionettes who dance when their strings are pulled."

Although Charles Merriam interpreted our Constitution as being "broad enough in its terms; flexible enough in its spirit, and capable of liberal enough interpretation by the judiciary " in order to suit his philosophy, it would be impossible to misinterpret our Constitution, which clearly states in Article I, Section 1: "All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives." And, furthermore, there is no provision in our Constitution which gives the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations the authority to draft bills and executive orders for the signatures of our Presidents.

In order to condition the public to accept the elimination of city, county, state and even the national boundaries — as we were brought closer to the New World Order, the ecology movement was launched.

On May 29, 1969, in a press release, President Nixon announced the following. "I am creating today, by executive order, the Environmental Quality Council. My executive order

also creates a fifteen-member Citizens' Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality, which will be chaired by Laurance S. Rockefeller. I am hopeful that the Environmental Quality Council will foster greater cooperation in this problem area between the various levels of American government."

In August of 1970, Nixon transmitted to the Congress his First Annual Report on Environmental Quality in which he said:

"I believe we must work toward the development of a National Land Use Policy to be carried out by an effective partnership of Federal, State and local governments working together, and, where appropriate, with new regional institutional arrangements. Citizen organizations have been the forefront of action to support strengthened environmental programs. The Citizens' Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality, under the chairmanship of Laurance S. Rockefeller, has provided an important link between the federal Government's effort and this broad-ranging citizen activity. On the international front, the level of environmental problems know no political boundaries."

And, in his Executive Order (11514) of March, 1970, Nixon charged the Council on Environmental Quality to "Advise and assist the President and the agencies in achieving international cooperation for dealing with environmental problems, under the foreign policy guidance of the Secretary of State."

I think most of us wondered, as columnist Guy Wright did, in the San Francisco Examiner, when he wrote this: ". . .there's something about the ecology kick that disturbs me. Most of this enthusiasm was artificially induced." But, now we can see more clearly where this is taking us, as the concentrated power of the federal bureaucracy has moved in to control all our resources: land, water and air.

When Nixon called for the division of our country into the ten Standard Federal Regions, (then-Governor) Reagan, in his Reorganization Plan of 1969, authorized the California Council on Intergovernmental Relations to divide our State into nine planning districts, which is the first step in developing Substate Regionalism. The plan was adopted on February 11, 1970, and the CIR was charged with the responsibility for encouraging regional organizations. Reagan appointed Lieutenant Governor Ed Reinecke to head the steering committee — the Local Government Reform Project — to make plans for local government reform and modernization. At this time, Reagan was also serving as a member of the President's Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations in violation of the California Constitution which states that the Governor may not hold other public office.<sup>12</sup> After hearings were held throughout the State on Reagan's Reform Project, the opposition was so strong that Reagan's efforts to regionalize our State and local governments were abandoned. The Report of the public's reaction to Reagan's proposals concluded that local government should not be restructured; that is was not inefficient nor uneconomical; and that cooperation between governments was a far better solution to area-wide problems than regional arrangements.

As H. G. Wells said: "Socialism ceased to be an open revolution and became a plot." Several of our Presidents have called it the "Quiet Revolution." In fact, Nixon said in 1972: "In my State of the Union address nearly two years ago, I outlined a program which I described as a 'New American Revolution' — a peaceful revolution. . . "

It is quiet and peaceful only because the American people are not well enough informed

about the transition taking place. They know that they are not being represented, but are being overtaxed and- overregulated and they are beginning to revolt. Let's hope that they continue to revolt by starving the monstrous bureaucracy through tax reforms before they are consumed in red tape and in debt.

Let's review what the New Federalism is and what it means: The New Federalism is Regionalism. It is Socialism. It shifts the power from the people and their elected representatives, to a centralized authority. The fifty sovereign States have been merged into ten Standard Federal Regions. The Office of Management and Budget, which was transferred to- the Office of the President in 1970, now provides policy guidance to the ten appointed Councils in consultation with the White House Office of Policy Development. This evolution (or revolution) of our government structure would never have been approved by the people if they had been given the opportunity to voice themselves at the polls.

Robert Weaver, who was the Director of the Department of Housing and Urban Development described it this way: "Regional government means absolute control over all property and its development regardless of location, anywhere in the United States to be administered on the Federal official's determination. It would supersede state and local laws . . . "

In a speech made by Nelson Rockefeller at Harvard University on February 9, 1962, he said: "I was wholeheartedly committed to the battle at the San Francisco: Conference for inclusion of Article 51 in the United Nations Charter to permit regional arrangements within the United Nations framework."<sup>13</sup>

Regional government has not only been implemented in our country, but in countries all over the world — and again — without the approval of the citizens of those countries.

We have become "interdependent" as a mere state under the authority of the United Nations, as all resources, human and natural, are being managed for the purpose of equal redistribution, through the process of taxation and welfarism.

William Safire, a columnist for the New York Times, wrote an article on the New Federalism on November 15, 1973 in which he said: "Ten years and two presidencies from now, it will turn out that the New Federalism was not a fairy tale after all. It may turn out that one of the most significant political power changes of our time was the least covered."

- 1) "United Nations Terrorism in Africa", Mary K. Davison, Patriotic Publishers, Lantan, Fla.
- 2, 4, 5) Charles E. Merriam and the Study of Politics, Barry D. Karl.
- 3, 6) Pennsylvania Crier, P.O. Box 16042, Philadelphia, Pa. 19114.
- 7) Historical Perspective on the Executive Office of the President.
- 8) Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, Pamphlet M-46.
- 9) ACIR Report. "American Federalism Into the Third Century."
- 10) ACIR Intergovernmental Perspective, Winter, 1977.
- 11) Santa Cruz Sentinel
- 12) California Constitution, Article V. Section I (2)
- 13). Freedom and Union, May 1962, "Federalism and the New World Order."



## **About the Author**

Anne Garni, of Santa Cruz, California has been involved in community services for many years. A Real Estate Broker by profession, she has contributed to the betterment of her fellow citizens by accepting leadership positions in professional as well as humanitarian organizations.

Anne has served on the Santa Cruz County Supervisors Advisory Council on Youth, served as Youth Employment Service Chairman; Secretary Director of the Real Estate Certificate Institute, President of the Santa Cruz Board of Realtors, Membership Chairman for the Retarded Children Organization, Member of the Santa Cruz, California, City Council, and past California State Assembly Candidate from the 28th Assembly District.

Anne has received numerous commendations for her humanitarian and patriotic efforts, including: Liberty Award for Outstanding Service from the Congress of

Freedom, Award for Outstanding Service to Santa Cruz County, Citation for Services from Santa Cruz County, Association for Retarded Children, Award of Merit from the Real Estate Certificate Institute, Commendation from Statewide Chairman, United Organization of Taxpayers, Certificate of Appreciation, United Veterans Council.

Anne has long been a champion of limited government and has a statewide reputation for integrity and as a dedicated foe of the welfare state.

### **ADDITIONAL REFERENCES RELATING TO LAND USE REINFORCING ANNE GARNI'S REGIONAL GOVERNMENT ESSAY:**

1. Bernard H. Siegan's "Land Use Without Zoning", Lexington Books, is the story of a very prosperous city, Houston, which does not have zoning ordinances.
2. Jo Hindman "The Metrocrats", Caxton Printers, Ltd.
3. Jo Hindman "Terrible 1313 Revisited", Caxton Printers, Ltd.
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Reprinted  
**In Memory of**  
**Anne Patricia Garni**  
03/17/1915 - 05/15/1995