

### Source 1

[Statement of the President Upon Signing the Reorganization Act of 1945](#). December 20, 1945.

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Under the authority of the Act, I shall undertake a systematic review of the Government agencies with a view to regrouping their functions in the most efficient and economical manner and abolishing such functions or agencies as may not be necessary....

The results of reorganization will be evident primarily in the increased effectiveness of Government operations. Regrouping and consolidation to bring together those agencies having related purposes will lead to a greater consistency in the policies of the agencies and better coordination of their programs in operation. This should mean also a simpler and clearer relation between the agencies of the Government and the public. Through these means, the Act will enable us better to adapt the Government for carrying out its responsibility of serving the people.

## Using Source 1

<b>Sourcing Questions</b>	What is President Truman's purpose in creating this source?
<b>Contextualization Questions</b>	How long had Truman been in office when this Statement was given? What Presidential authority did Truman refer to in this Statement?
<b>Corroboration Tasks</b>	Using source #2, what was the motivation behind efforts to reorganize the government?
<b>Close Reading Questions</b>	According to Truman, what were the potential benefits of government reorganization? What part of government was most likely being reorganized by this act?

## Source 2

Lederle, John W. [\*The Hoover Commission Reports on Federal Reorganization\*](#). Marquette Law Review. 33.2. 1949

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One thing is clear: The problem of executive branch organization is a big one! The federal government in recent years has impressed many citizens as being more like a menacing octopus than a servant of the people. Since the 1920's the number of civilian employees has grown from 570,000 to over 2,000,000; the number of bureaus, sections, services and units has quadrupled to over 1,800; annual federal expenditures have jumped from \$3,600,000,000 to more than \$42,000,000,000; the annual debt per average family has shot up from approximately \$500 to about \$7,500.<sup>2</sup> It is little wonder that many citizens look back with nostalgic yearnings to the 1920's.

Yet the clock is not likely to be turned back. The impact of the Depression led the federal government into many new areas of regulation of private enterprise or of direct social service. The impact of World War II and the universal recognition of America's inevitable involvement in international problems, has influenced the growth and costs of the federal government even more than did the Depression.<sup>3</sup> While it is conceivable that cutbacks in some services might be made, economizers in our national legislature are never able to marshal more than generalized support. When the economizers point to specific spots where cuts should be made, their brothers jump ship. Big Government is with us and is likely to stay.

One area of investigation which might profitably have been developed further by the Commission is that of collective consideration of government-wide problems by the President's Cabinet. Since World War I the British Cabinet has evolved some interesting techniques for collective consideration and coordination of administrative activities. The potentialities of the American Cabinet have never been tapped; an adequate secretariat to prepare the ground in advance for Cabinet discussions is sadly lacking. While the American President is entirely free to use or ignore his Cabinet, the Commission would have done well to present some striking proposals suggesting that he should consider the British experience. The ad hoc interdepartmental committees suggested by the Commission to deal with individual sore thumb situations are a poor resort at best. The Cabinet could be developed into a effective council of material assistance to the President.

## Using Source 2

<b>Sourcing Questions</b>	What is the purpose of the author in creating this source? What is the tone of this source? What words or phrases help you understand that?
<b>Contextualization Questions</b>	What events of the Great Depression and World War II might relate to information in this source?
<b>Corroboration Tasks</b>	What does Truman say about this report in source #3? Does Truman's point of view in his statement agree with this source?
<b>Close Reading Questions</b>	What does the source mean when it says, "Big government is with us to stay." What do the statistics mentioned in this source tell us about the size of government?

### Source 3

Harry S Truman. [Special Message to the Congress upon signing the Reorganization Act of 1949](#). June 20, 1949.

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To the Congress of the United States:

I have today signed the Reorganization Act of 1949. The provisions of this Act depart from my recommendation and that of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch in that they permit the rejection of reorganization plans by action of either House of Congress, acting alone. Nevertheless, I am glad to proceed, under this measure, in cooperation with the Congress on the important task of improving the organization of the executive branch.

I am today transmitting to the Congress seven reorganization plans, each with a related message setting forth its purpose and effects. I shall also transmit an additional message recommending legislation to place the management and financing of the Post Office Department on a more business-like basis. These reorganization measures will contribute significantly to the more responsible and efficient administration of Federal programs. They are important steps in putting into effect several major recommendations of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government

During this session of the Congress, I have made a number of recommendations for improvement in the organization and management of the executive branch. They are closely related to the proposals submitted today. . .

- Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1949 rounds out the organization of the Executive Office of the President by transferring to it the National Security Council and the National Security Resources Board, two important over-all staff agencies of the executive branch. . .

#### **With respect to particular Departments and Agencies:**

I have previously recommended enactment of the Federal property and administrative services legislation which has passed the House of Representatives and is pending in the Senate. This legislation will create the General Services Administration and make fundamental improvements in the Government's system of procurement and property management . . .

I have recommended, and the Congress has enacted, legislation to permit the reorganization of the Department of State along lines approved by the Commission on Organization. The internal reorganization of that Department is proceeding. . .

I have recommended, and the Senate has acted upon, a bill to amend the National Security Act and improve the organization and administration of our defense activities. It is essential that action be completed on this measure in order to provide responsible leadership for our defense establishment. This legislation will not only strengthen the administration of our armed forces in the interest of national security, it will also make possible major economies in the execution of activities common to the several armed forces. . .

- Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1949 will create a Department of Welfare to administer most of the programs now within the Federal Security Agency. The creation of this Department will meet a long standing need of the executive branch and recognize the importance of our social security, education, and related program.

### Using Source 3

<b>Sourcing Questions</b>	What is President Truman's purpose in creating this source? Why is Truman talking to Congress on this topic?
<b>Contextualization Questions</b>	What does it tell us that Truman is having to revisit government reorganization again in 1949?
<b>Corroboration Tasks</b>	To what extent do the recommendations in this source address the concerns mentioned in source #2?
<b>Close Reading Questions</b>	What specific changes in government is Truman asking for in this source? How does Truman justify those requests? What does Truman say was his goal as head of the executive branch?