City, state officials knock Reagan plans

"Tm becoming more and more depressed," said C. Patrick Babcock, director of the Michigan Department of Mental Health, after a public hearing in Detroit on the impact of President Reagan's new federalism."

The hearing — now famous for the "snake pit incident"— drew public officials and a host of social workers from all over southeastern Michigan. The purpose was to discuss how the state should administer federal block grants now that the Reagan administration has proposed paying the money directly to the states instead of to communities through 57 "categorical programs."

"WHAT WE heard here was consistent with what I heard in the Marquette and Lansing Bactrags," said Babeck after four hours of testimony. "First, they (those in Detroit) were concerned with the effects of the cuts." The Reagan Administration is proposing a 25 percent cut in administration to shifting responsibilities actogorised, ectain communities were very aggressive in pursuing grants. We shouldn't giore them in administrating the money from Lansing," Babeck said.

He was joined on the panel by Noble Kheder, deputy director of the Department of Social Services; Bill Long, director of the Department of Public Health.

Most speakers had praise for Gov. william G. Milliken for his past attention to Detroit's problems and for sending his top human services staff members to listen to the public. The exception was the State Workers Organizing Committee, which dumped a briefcase with garden stakes on the stage of the State Fairgrounds Committy Arts auditorium. SWOC President Richard Gibson had just finished charging that the Milliken Administration had created "a snake pit" with its own budget cuts.

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JUSTINE BARNS, a Westland councilwoman, criticized state officials for taking a "top-down approach" in deciding how to administer block grants - deciding in Lansing how funds should be disbursed rather than letting local officials decide. Ms. Barras, who is chairwoman of the bousing and community development advisory committee of the Southest Michigan Council of Governments, said local officials" "worst fears are being realized." So that Department of Commerce plans for the administration of small cities community development in the state of the southern of the souther

MARYANN MAHAFFEY, Detroit

MARYANN MAHAFFEY. Detroit councilwoman, said of the Reagan administration's shift to dispensing fewer collars and doing it through the states:
"He terms it new federalism. We call it states "rights. And it could become county and township rights. We are being forced to implement block grants with a 25 percent cut in federal grants following earlier federal cus:"
Ms. Mahaffey said Michigan substitution of the same standards in distributing aid so that southern states couldn't employ local whims to cut off blacks from funds.

GEORGE GAINES, one of a host of employees of the Detroit Department of Health to testify, said: "There's a concentration of health problems in Detroit, and it's directly related to the

given to other areas."

Gaines said half of Detroit's \$60 million health department budget currently comes from federal grants.

If Congress adopts Reagan's new federalism approach, the 57 categori-cal programs would be divided into nine sets of state-administered block nine seis of state-administered block grants: Alcohol, drug abuse and mental health; social services; maternal and child health care; preventive health service; low-income energy assistance; community services; small cities com-munity development; education; and winnary health care. primary health care.



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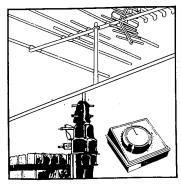
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