

The White House Will Listen More

Albuquerque, N.M.

The White House agreed yesterday to a series of meetings designed to give state and local governments greater impact in writing the federal budget and domestic policy.

Two leaders of the National Governors' Conference said the move was an indication of a new spirit of cooperation by the Nixon administration.

"I believe it is, I hope it is," said Governor Calvin Rampton, Democrat from Utah, chairman of the national conference.

Washington Governor Dan Evans said he thinks "there is some real eagerness on their part" to work with the officials on a unified basis rather than in fragmented fashion in assessing their

federal aid needs and requests.

Evans and Rampton were advised of the budget sessions by Kenneth Cole, Mr. Nixon's chief domestic adviser and chairman of the President's Domestic Council. The three met during the current Western Governors' Conference.

Cole said the budget meetings tentatively are scheduled to start in Washington in September and continue through January when the spending plan for the fiscal year starting July 1, 1975, is completed by the President.

It will be the first time that states and local governments have had a voice in formulating the federal budget from the outset on a systematic, organized basis, Evans said.

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