

Top Nixon Aides Defend Policies

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Two members of the Cabinet and the executive director of the President's Domestic Council defended the Nixon administration's policies yesterday in the face of some sharp questioning by Democratic governors who are attending the National Governors Conference here.

The questions were directed at Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, James Lynn, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Kenneth R. Cole Jr., executive director of the President's Domestic Council.

Some of the governors were critical of both HEW and HUD regulations, contending that under some of them, their allowances for certain programs have been cut materially.

VIEW

"We are not giving with one hand and taking away with the other," Weinberger said in answer to criticism that under revenue sharing, the administration was "short-changing" the states and local governments.

Weinberger told the gover-

nors that his department is following "guidelines" fixed by the Congress in writing regulations in the handling of welfare and other social services.

He expressed "surprise" when Democratic Governor James Carter of Georgia declared that he and other governors can not spend all the money their states are entitled to from the federal government, because regulations from Washington do not permit them to do so in certain categories, and that they are compelled to make up the differences for some governmental functions by using other state funds.

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Weinberger contended that his department has "no intent to draw regulations to spend less money than authorized by the Congress." He told the governors he is making changes in some regulations to meet the changes urged by the governors.

Secretary Lynn told the conference that changes are being proposed in the financial level for public and private housing and that many of the complaints of the governors are now being remedied.