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John W. Gardner

John Gardner served as Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare from 1965 to 1968. Following his resignation, he became Chair of the National Urban Coalition and in 1970 founded Common Cause, where he served as Chair until 1977. He chaired the Organizing Committee that led to the founding of Independent Sector, a national forum for organizations in the voluntary sector, and served as Chair until 1983, when he assumed a teaching post at Stanford University.



At the time of his appointment to the Cabinet by President Johnson, Gardner was President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. During that time, Gardner served continuously as a consultant to various government agencies: AID, the State Department, the U.S. Air Force, the White House, the U.S. delegation to the United Nations, and others. He served on President Kennedy's Task Force on Education and was Chair of President Kennedy's Commission on International Educational and Cultural Affairs. Gardner was Chair of President Johnson's Task Force on Education and the 1965 White House Conference on Education. Gardner was a member of President Carter's Commission on an Agenda for the Eighties and Chair of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships. During 1981-'82 he served as a member of President Reagan's Task Force on Private Sector Initiatives.

Gardner was the editor of President Kennedy's book *To Turn The Tide*, and authored *Excellence, Self-Renewal, No Easy Victories, The Recovery of Confidence, In Common Cause, Morale, and On Leadership*. He was the co-editor, with Francesca Gardner Reese, of *Quotations of Wit and Wisdom (Know or Listen to Those Who Know)*. In 1991 Independent Sector published his brief treatise entitled *Building Community*.

Gardner attended Stanford University where he received his B.A. and M.A. in psychology. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1938 and taught psychology at the University of California, Connecticut College for Women, and Mount Holyoke College. In 1943 Mr. Gardner joined the U.S. Marine Corps, and at the time of his release from active duty, he held the rank of captain. He served with the OSS in Washington, Italy, and Austria. Gardner served on numerous boards and councils and received many awards and honorary degrees. In 1964 Mr. Gardner was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States.