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INTRODUCTION EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY BUREAUS OF EFFICIENCY: I 1910-1912; 3 THE CHICAGO CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION'S EFFICIENCY DIVISION, 1910-1916; 4 THE CHICAGO BUREAU OF PUBLIC EFFICIENCY, 1910-1932; 5 THE BIGGER PICTURE: BUREAUS OF EFFICIENCY IN OTHER CORNERS OF AMERICA 6 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS Appendix A Reports Issued by Bureaus

of Efficiency in Milwaukee and Chicago; Appendix B Comparison of

Sommario/riassunto

Advantages and Disadvantages of Sectoral Affiliation; Bibliography; Index

Bureaus of efficiency were established in America as part of the civic reform agenda during the Progressive era at the beginning of the twentieth century. In some cities they were nonprofit agencies pushing for governmental reform from the outside. In other cities, efficiency bureaus were established by reformers as departments within municipal government, school districts or counties. The goal of such bureaus was to promote efficiency in local government, as a way of fighting political corruption, urban machines and political bosses. Efficiency bureaus sought to professionalize local government