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IMPACT OF THE \$56 MILLION CUT IN
THE NSF 1977 BUDGET

Five.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on the NSF Budget has reduced the President's request for the NSF by \$56 million in basic research. Taking into account inflation, the amount remaining provides for no real growth in NSF support of basic research and ignores the decline in constant dollar levels of Federal support for such research since 1967.

National Science Foundation Programs

<u>(Amounts in Millions of \$)</u>	<u>FY 1976 Appropriations</u>	<u>Amount of President's House FY 1977 Proposal</u>	<u>Subcommittee Actions</u>
Basic Research	517	611	555
Other programs and activities	197	191	195
	—	—	—
Total, NSF	714	802	750

The 1977 Appropriations for NSF -- and particularly the importance of this \$56 million cut -- need to be considered in the context of (a) the importance of basic research to the Nation's future, and (b) the role of NSF in the total government-wide support of basic research.

Over the past decade, Federal support of basic science has declined in real terms by as much as 20 percent taking into account inflation. At the level requested in the President's Budget, Federal support of basic research would "turn the corner" and for the first time since 1967 show real growth in this important area of Federal responsibility. It is apparent that the President recognized the importance of basic research in providing the scientific basis for dealing with future problems of the nation and in bolstering economic growth. This should be recognized by the House Appropriations Committee through restoration of the \$56 million reduction.



The NSF plays a key role as the lead Federal agency in the support of basic research. Although it represents only about 30 percent of the total Federal support for this purpose, it provides the means for assuring balance in all fields of science. Looking at the NSF budget simply in terms of its own program growth fails to take into account this critical government-wide balancing role of NSF in support of basic research.

Ignoring the role of the Foundation in the overall Federal support of basic research, would be turning our back on the very purpose of which the Foundation was created, namely to insure that support of basic research is adequate in scope and across disciplines to serve the national interest.

