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Q&As - TECHNICAL

1. Q. Is this the same as the position of "Science Adviser?"
 - A. As a technical matter, the nomination is for the position of Director of the OSTP. That is the position recently created by law. However, the President has indicated that he will also name the person confirmed as Director of OSTP as his adviser on science and technology.

2. Q. What is the role of the new Organization?
 - A. The detailed functions of the OSTP are spelled out in P.L. 94-282, but the best summary is that the Office will provide the President and others in the Executive Office of the President with advice on the scientific and technical aspects of issues that require attention at the highest levels of Government.

3. Q. How large will the Office be?
 - A. Our current estimate is that it will have a total complement of about 30 people when fully staffed. That, of course, is large for a policy group in the Executive Office of the President. The Domestic Council, for example, has a total of about 40.

4. Q. Who will be the Deputy?
 - A. There has been no selection yet.

Background

The law authorizes -- at the President's direction -- the appointment of up to four associate directors. The President's intent is to fill only one of these positions and to consider the person the Deputy.

5. Q. What is the salary level for the position?
 - A. The position is a Level II on the Executive Schedule. The Associate positions are at Level III.

NOMINATION FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY (OSTP)
IN THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

President's Action. The President has today sent to the Congress his nomination of Dr. H. Guyford Stever as the Director of the new Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

Background. This position was created by P.L. 94-282, which the President recently signed into law. Law signed on May 11, 1976; but no need to highlight the two-month delay.

June 9, 1975

SUBJECT:

PRESIDENT PROPOSES OFFICE OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Why Set Up Something New?

- Q. Why did the President decide to establish a separate Science Adviser's Office rather than continue the current arrangement in which the Director of the National Science Foundation also serves as Science Adviser?
- A. The President has determined that both the responsibilities of the NSF Director and the responsibilities of the Science Adviser are both full-time jobs and require full-time attention.

Advice to Whom?

- Q. Who will the Science Adviser advise?
- A. The President and his senior advisers in the White House. In addition, the Science Adviser and his staff will work closely with and provide advice on scientific and technical considerations to other components of the White House and Executive Office, including the Domestic Council, the National Security Council and OMB.

Review Military R&D?

- Q. What will be the role of the Science Adviser in reviewing military R&D programs including major weapons systems programs?
- A. The Science Adviser and his staff will work closely with existing Executive Office organizations involved in the review of military programs, particularly the National Security Council.

Member of the NSC?

- Q. Will the Science Adviser be a member of the National Security Council?
- A. It is not intended that the Adviser on Science and Technology be added as a member of the NSC. The statutory membership of NSC includes the President, the Vice President and the Secretaries of State and Defense, with others participating at the discretion

of the President. Since the focus of NSC generally is on broader foreign policy issues, it is neither necessary nor appropriate that the Adviser on Science and Technology become a full member of the Council. The Adviser on Science and Technology will participate in NSC deliberations on policy issues where science and technology are significant considerations.

Relationship to NSF?

- Q. What will be the relationship between the new Office of Science and Technology Policy and the NSF?
- A. The NSF will continue to support a broad range of science policy studies and will work very closely with the new Office to support its functions.

What Assignments for OSTP?

- Q. What kind of assignments will be given to the new Office of Science and Technology Policy?
- A. The assignments given will depend heavily on the issues that are facing the President. Scientific and technical considerations are important to many of the issues which come to the President and to senior advisers in the White House and Executive Office. These include issues involving energy, the economy, environment and others. When scientific and technical considerations are important in policy, program and budget matters, we will expect the Office to be involved.

Part of White House Staff?

- Q. Will the Director of the Science and Technology Policy Office also be a part of the White House Staff?
- A. Yes, the Director will also serve as Science and Technology Adviser to the President.

Where Will OSTP Be Located?

- Q. Where will the new Office be located physically?
- A. Space for the new offices have not yet been assigned. but the Office will need to be in the White House office complex.

Responsibilities Other Than Advice?

- Q. Will the Science Adviser have other responsibilities besides providing advice?
- A. He will exercise a coordinating role among Federal programs and agencies, and will, for example, chair the Federal Council for Science and Technology. He will also act as the President's spokesman on science and technology. As in the case of other senior advisers, he will not direct the operation of programs because program management responsibilities are vested in the mission agencies.

Annual Report?

- Q. Will the Science Adviser issue an annual report?
- A. No. Preparing a separate annual report would unnecessarily take time away from more important advisory activities to the President. There are already agency and interagency reports that cover most aspects of Federal science activities and there are reports which reflect scientific and technical considerations when these are important to the accomplishment of a policy or program objective. There is also Special Analysis on R&D which is part of the Budget Special Analyses. The Adviser on Science and Technology and his staff would participate in reviewing these agency and interagency reports and also in preparing the Special Analysis.

Why Not a 3-Man Council?

- Q. Why not establish a three-man Science and Technology council?
- A. The President prefers an office with one leader and a deputy to a council. It is a matter of establishing an advisory mechanism that will be most responsive to Presidential needs and preferences.

Availability of Information?

- Q. Will the proceedings of ad hoc committees and panels established by the Science Adviser be open to the public under the Freedom of Information Act?
- A. Yes, in those situations to which the Freedom of Information Act applies. The Act does not preclude

maintaining the confidentiality of advice and consultation in defined situations such as national security.

A New PSAC?

- Q. Will there be a new Science Advisory Committee to the President, a new PSAC?
- A. No. At this time there is no plan to appoint a standing advisory committee. However, it is expected that extensive use will be made of ad hoc advisory groups with members taken from the science and engineering communities. Furthermore, the National Science Board will continue to function as an advisory body with respect to the status of science and science education. It is expected the Adviser on Science and Technology will also call upon the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering for assistance in reviewing certain issues.

Size of OSTP?

- Q. What will be the size of the Office of Science and Technology Policy?
- A. The Office is intended to be a small, flexible and highly qualified staff, capable of covering a broad range of issues where scientific and technological considerations are important. This will require a staff of up to fifteen professionals and appropriate support personnel. A staff with high professional qualifications is desired, with experience in industry, academia and government.

Role in Budget Process?

- Q. What responsibility will the Office have with respect to agency R&D budgets?
- A. The Office will be expected to participate in the review of agency R&D programs and budgets and will work with the OMB in support of the annual budget process.

What Happens to NSF's Policy Activities?

- Q. What will become of NSF's policy planning function and its policy planning staff.
- A. The NSF will maintain a strong staff in R&D policy analysis both to carry out its central responsibilities in the support of science and to assist the new Office of Science and Technology Policy.

OSTP Budget?

- Q. How large will the budget be for OSTP?
- A. Once the legislation creating the new office is passed, the President expects to request appropriations of up to \$1.5 million for the initial year of the office's operation.