

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 9, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The President today is transmitting to the Congress proposed legislation to create in the Executive Office of the President an Office of Science and Technology Policy which will be headed by a Director who will also serve as the President's adviser on science and technology.

I. BACKGROUND

In 1957 President Eisenhower created the post of Special Assistant for Science and Technology and reconstituted the President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC) in the White House.

In 1962, the Science Advisory function was formalized with the creation of the Office of Science and Technology.

On July 1, 1973, most of the functions of the Office of Science and Technology were transferred to the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) who was also designated as science adviser. The President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC) was abolished and the chairmanship of the interagency Federal Council on Science and Technology (FCST) was transferred to the NSF Director.

In December 1974, the President asked the Vice President to re-examine the question of whether a science advisory organization in the White House would strengthen the Presidential staff mechanism. The Vice President recommended the creation of an Office of Science and Technology Policy, a recommendation approved by the President.

On May 22, 1975, the President met with key members of Congress concerned with science and technology and discussed the proposal. The President's decision to seek legislation to establish a new office was announced that day.

II. FUNCTIONS OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW OFFICE

The proposed legislation would create in the Executive Office of the President an Office of Science and Technology Policy headed by a Director at Executive Level II and a Deputy Director at Executive Level IV. The Director would be the President's chief policy adviser with respect to scientific and technical matters and would advise the President with respect to:

- A. The scientific and technological aspects of major national policies, programs and issues.

(MORE)

- B. The adequacy and effectiveness of Federal scientific and technological policies, programs, and plans for meeting National goals.
- C. The utilization of new ideas and discoveries in science and technology in addressing important National problems.
- D. The coordination of scientific and technical activities of the Federal Government.
- E. And such other matters as the President may direct.

In performing his duties the Director will work closely with and advise the senior staff in the White House and Executive Office of the President. He will be involved in the review of military as well as civilian scientific and technical programs and work closely with the National Security Council, the Domestic Council and the Office of Management and Budget.

III. RESOURCES FOR THE NEW OFFICE

The Director and Deputy Director would be assisted by a staff of up to 15 professionals. When the legislation is passed, the President intends to request appropriations of up to \$1.5 million for support of the organization during its first year.

In addition, the Director of the Office is expected to draw upon the extensive resources available in:

- A. in the academic, industrial and private research community to obtain expert advice, on an ad hoc basis, on scientific and technological matters of national concern, and
- B. in Federal departments and agencies.

The Director would also assume chairmanship of the interagency Federal Council for Science and Technology.

Until the legislation is passed and the new Office is activated, Dr. H. Guyford Stever, Director of NSF will continue to serve as science adviser. The NSF is expected to continue its scientific and technical policy analysis activities and work closely with the new Office.

#