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UNTIL 12:30 P.M. (EST)

March 22, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

THE PRESIDENT'S SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MESSAGE

The President today sent to the Congress a message outlining the important contribution of science and technology in achieving national objectives; calling on the Congress to complete action on legislation to establish an Office of Science and Technology Policy in the White House; and urging favorable Congressional action on the request for \$24.7 billion for research and development included in his FY 1977 Budget.

BACKGROUND

- ° On June 9, 1975, the President transmitted to the Congress his proposal to establish an Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President. On November 6, 1975, the House passed legislation acceptable to the President (H.R. 10230). On February 4, the Senate passed a bill which, with some changes, would also be acceptable. The bills are now awaiting action by a House-Senate Conference Committee.
- ° On January 21, 1976, the President transmitted to the Congress his FY 1977 Budget which includes a total of \$24.7 billion for research and development -- an 11 percent increase over the amount estimated for 1976.

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

- ° The legislation proposed by the President called for an Office headed by a Director who would assist the President by:
 - providing advice in policy areas where scientific or technological considerations are involved;
 - helping to assure that the Nation's scientific and technological capabilities are utilized effectively in achieving the Nation's goals; and
 - identifying new opportunities for using science and technology to improve our understanding of national problems and contribute to their solution.
- ° In addition to establishing such an office, the bill passed by the House would declare a national policy on science and technology and establish a committee to appraise the overall Federal science and technology effort.
- ° The President indicated that he would name the Director of the new office as his adviser on science and technology.

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THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUESTS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

° Obligations for R&D in the FY 1977 Budget

	(billions of dollars)		
	<u>1975</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>1976</u> <u>Estimated</u>	<u>1977</u> <u>Estimated</u>
<u>Performance of R&D</u>			
- Defense, including military-related programs of ERDA	9.6	10.6	12.0
- Space exploration and technology	2.5	2.9	2.9
- Civilian	<u>6.9</u>	<u>7.8</u>	<u>8.6</u>
Subtotal	19.0	21.3	23.5
. <u>R&D facilities</u>	<u>.8</u>	<u>.9</u>	<u>1.2</u>
. Total	19.8	22.2	24.7

(Further details of R&D funding and programs are provided in Special Analysis P, Federal Research and Development Programs Budget of the United States Government, 1977.)

° The President's Budget focuses Federal R&D investments so as to meet:

- Direct Federal needs, where the Government has full responsibility, as in space and national defense.
- General economic and human welfare needs, where the Federal Government must assume major responsibility because incentives are not sufficient for the private sector to invest enough to meet national needs, as in basic research, and in health, environmental, and agricultural research.
- Certain specific national needs, where the Government assists the private sector by using Federal funds to stimulate, accelerate, and augment the efforts of industry in providing needed technological options for the future, as in energy R&D.

° Private industry, foundations, universities and others also invest in R&D. The private sector accounts for nearly half of the national investment in R&D.

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