

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE  
UNTIL 10:30 A.M. (EDT)

May 11, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

---

THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The President today signed into law H.R. 10230, the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization and Priorities Act of 1976. The principal purpose of the bill is to create in the Executive Office of the President an Office of Science and Technology Policy. The President also urged the Congress to approve his 1977 Budget requests for funds for R&D.

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 similar bill. A compromise bill recommended by the House-Senate Conference Committee was approved by the Senate on April 27 and by the House on April 29, 1976.

NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY, ORGANIZATION AND PRIORITIES ACT OF 1976

The principal provisions of the bill are the following:

- Title I outlines the principles of a national science and technology policy and procedures for implementing those principles.
- Title II creates a new Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) in the Executive Office of the President. The Office is to be headed by a Director who is subject to confirmation by the Senate. The President has indicated that he intends to designate the Director as his adviser on science and technology.
  - The primary function of the Director is to provide advice on the scientific, engineering and technological aspects of issues that require attention at the highest levels of Government.
  - Functions of the Office include:
    - . preparing of an annually updated five-year outlook which highlights current and emerging problems, which have been identified through the results of scientific research, and opportunities for the use of science and technology to contribute to the achievement of Federal objectives and national goals.

more

- . assisting the Office of Management and Budget in reviewing funding proposed by Federal agencies for research and development.
- . assisting the President in preparing an annual science and technology report.
- The Director is named as a member of the Domestic Council and an adviser to the National Security Council.
- The Director is called upon to establish an inter-governmental science, engineering and technology advisory panel to identify and define problems at the State, regional and local levels which science and technology may assist in resolving.
- Title III calls upon the President to establish a Committee consisting of the Director of OSTP and not less than 8 nor more than 14 other members to undertake a two-year study of the overall context of the Federal science and technology effort.
- Title IV establishes the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering and Technology. This interagency group will consist of representatives of Federal agencies with significant R&D programs. It replaces the Federal Council for Science and Technology (FCST) which was established by Executive Order in 1959.

The President has requested \$1.9 million to begin the activities of the new office and the work of the Committee established by Title III.

#### PRESIDENT'S 1977 BUDGET REQUESTS FOR R&D

The 1977 Budget which the President submitted to the Congress in January requests some \$24.7 billion for the research and development program of the various Federal agencies -- an overall increase of 11 percent above 1976 estimates. This total includes significant increases in research and development for energy; national defense programs; agricultural research; and for basic or long-range exploratory research which underlies future advances in applied science and technology.

Details of the President's 1977 R&D funding and program proposals are provided in Special Analysis P (Federal Research and Development Programs, Budget of the United States Government, 1977.)

# # #