

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 9, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF LETTERS FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I am forwarding proposed legislation to create in the Executive Office of the President an Office of Science and Technology Policy headed by a Director who will also serve as my Science and Technology Adviser.

From my earliest days in public life, I have been impressed with the vital contributions of science and technology to the continued progress of this Nation. The expansion of knowledge through scientific research and the successful and creative employment of our scientific and technological capabilities are essential to the growth, stability and security of the Nation. Today, advancement in these fields is crucial, for example, to the achievement of our long-range energy independence.

The Director of the new Office will provide advice to me and my top assistants in policy areas where scientific or technological considerations are involved, thereby helping to assure that the Nation's scientific and technological capabilities are utilized effectively in achieving our Nation's goals. He will identify new opportunities for using science and technology to improve our understanding of national problems and to contribute to their solution. He will also chair the Federal Council on Science and Technology, and I expect him to provide advice on the scientific and technological considerations in Federal policies, programs and budgets.

The Director and the Deputy Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy will be appointed by the President. The Office will draw extensively on the Nation's scientific and engineering community for advice and assistance. The Director and staff will also call upon Federal agencies for assistance in carrying out their responsibilities.

I believe that this new mechanism for providing the President and his senior advisers ready access to scientific and technological advice will improve our ability to find the best courses of action for achieving our national objectives.

I urge the Congress to give this proposed legislation its early and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

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## A BILL

To strengthen staff capabilities for providing advice and assistance to the President with respect to scientific and technological considerations affecting national policies and programs.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the Presidential Science and Technology Advisory Organization Act of 1975 .

Section 2. Office of Science and Technology Policy. There is hereby established in the Executive Office of the President the Office of Science and Technology Policy, hereinafter referred to as the Office.

Sec. 3. Director and Deputy Director. There shall be at the head of the Office a Director who shall be appointed by the President and shall be compensated at the rate provided for Level II of the Executive Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5313). There shall also be in the Office a Deputy Director, who shall be appointed by the President and shall be compensated at the rate provided for Level IV of the Executive Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5315). The Deputy Director shall perform such functions as the Director may from time to time prescribe and shall act as Director during the absence or disability of the Director or in the event of vacancy in the Office of Director.

Sec. 4. Functions of the Director. The Director shall be the President's chief policy adviser with respect to scientific and technological matters. He shall advise the President, with respect to:

- (1) The scientific and technological aspects of major national policies, programs and issues,
- (2) the adequacy and effectiveness of Federal scientific and technological policies, programs, and plans for meeting national goals,
- (3) the utilization of new ideas and discoveries in science and technology in addressing important national problems,
- (4) the coordination of scientific and technical activities of the Federal Government, and
- (5) such other matters as the President may direct.

Sec. 5. Personnel. The Director is authorized, without regard to the provisions of title 5 of the United States Code governing appointments in the competitive service and chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53

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of said title, to appoint and fix the compensation but not in excess of the rate prescribed for grade GS-18 of the General Schedule in Section 5332 of said title for such officers and employees as he may deem necessary to perform the functions now or hereafter vested in him, and to prescribe their duties.

Sec. 6. Consultant and Other Services. The Director may (a) obtain services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5 of the United States Code, at rates not to exceed the rate prescribed for grade GS-18 of the General Schedule by section 5332 of title 5 of the United States Code, and (b) enter into contracts and other arrangements for studies, analyses, and other services with public agencies and with private persons, organizations or institutions, and make such payments as he deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act without legal consideration, without performance bonds, and without regard to Section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41 USC 55).

Sec. 7. Other Federal Agencies. The Director may utilize with their consent the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of other Federal agencies with or without reimbursement, and may transfer funds made available pursuant to this Act to other Federal agencies as reimbursement for the utilization of such services, personnel, equipment, and facilities.

Sec. 8. Authorization of Appropriations. There are authorized to be appropriated such amounts as may be necessary to carry out functions under this Act.

Sec. 9. Repeal. Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1962 (76 Stat. 1253) and Section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1973 (87 Stat. 1089) are repealed.

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