LETTERS OF TRANSMITTAL

DECEMBER 12, 1966.

To the Members of the Joint Economic Committee:

For the information of members of the Joint Economic Committee, other Members and committees of Congress, and the general public, there is transmitted herewith an analysis by the committee staff of the potentials and problems of economic growth of the United States to 1975. This is one of a series of publications reviewing efforts of the committee and its staff to analyze trends in the economy and the possible issues which the committee and other organizations, public and private, may have to face in the years ahead.

It is understood, of course, that these materials do not necessarily represent the views of the committee or of any of the individual members, nor do they contain either implicitly or explicitly recommendations as to the direction of future public policy. The intention is to aid the process of discussion and study so that by the time the issues become sufficiently pressing to require decision, there will be an increased level of knowledge and wide areas of agreement as to the solutions. In this way, we may get more intelligent decisions by avoiding the necessity for last-minute decisions and an atmosphere of crisis or extreme time pressure. The study deserves the most careful consideration by all interested in the future of public policy.

WRIGHT PATMAN,
Chairman, Joint Economic Committee.

DECEMBER 9, 1966.

Hon. WRIGHT PATMAN,
Chairman, Joint Economic Committee,
U.S. Congress, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The results of the study transmitted herewith indicate very strong potentials for a high rate of economic growth in the next decade; in fact, a rate substantially above the long-term rate which has been experienced in the first two-thirds of this century. This high growth rate will be associated with a number of problems, both public and private, and these materials have been constructed in such a way that they may assist the Joint Economic Committee in the years ahead to study the issues that may arise in public and private policy and contribute to their solution by early recognition and action.

An undertaking such as the present long-range projection and associated policy analysis must be carefully distinguished from a flat prediction of the future. There are many unpredictable variables outside the realm of competence of economists that will affect the future course of economic events. Accurate prognostication is not therefore to be expected. On the other hand, it is most useful to attempt to project the future course of the economy on the basis of reasonable assumptions derived from past experience. This permits the development of a range of prospects for the future and an analysis