

The Department of Labor, Department of Defense, and several other agencies found the question manageable. The Labor Department, for example, gave estimates of likely budgetary needs in 1970 for several programs—e.g., unemployment insurance, Trade Adjustment Act assistance, and the minimum wage program. The Department of Defense and Department of Justice similarly made projections for several of their programs. Replies covering other programs of these Departments and those of other agencies (including the Office of Economic Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and National Science Foundation) in many cases identify developments that may be expected to affect the numbers of persons who may be served by each program in 1970.

It must be acknowledged that too many responses to question 5 and related question 6(c) are generalized statements expressing hopes or expectations that programs will be expanded. Such replies must be expected in a setting in which administrative officials fear that however they set their sights—too low or too high—any projections they release will later haunt them. Nevertheless, the questionnaire elicited enough direct and substantive replies to demonstrate that a serious congressional effort to peer into the mists of the future is not altogether impractical, and that such an inquiry may yield some helpful insights even if it does not provide firm estimates. The possibilities for productive inquiries of this sort may be enhanced by developments within the executive branch—specifically, the requirements of the planning-programming-budgeting system for the preparation of comprehensive multiyear programs and financial plans for each Federal program and agency.

In retrospect, it appears that the question might have been improved and greater consistency in responses might have been generated if alternative sets of specific major economic and political assumptions had been provided as a basis for any projections. This would have been particularly helpful if the question could have suggested acceptable assumptions about the status of Vietnam, the size of the labor force, the volume of the gross national product, and a few other key factors. Assumptions about economic conditions in 1970 might now be based on Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates in a new report, "Projections 1970: Interindustry Relationships, Potential Demand, Employment" (BLS Bulletin No. 1536). This kind of systematic set of basic projections was not available when the questionnaire was formulated.

*Question 6. Prospective changes in program orientation.*—Parts (a) and (b) of this question asked for reports of pending legislative proposals and proposed administrative or organizational changes that might affect the particular activity or program. Part (c) asked for a statement on "probable changes in the conditions under which the program will function in 1970, e.g., technological, economic, social."

Answers to (a) and (b) are generally direct and explicit. They vary somewhat according to whether the reply was prepared before or after release of the President's budget and other messages in January 1966. Several respondents reported on legislative or organizational proposals that were under study in the agencies and were not yet part—at least formally—of the President's program.

Replies to part (c) were in some instances combined with those for question 5. This was understandable and acceptable, especially