

defense industry. It has frequently been urged that the Government undertake large new research programs in such fields as urban transportation, pollution control, oceanography, weather forecasting, methods for organizing medical and hospital care, and techniques of education. Defense contractors, as well as others, would be eligible to bid for the research contracts; and those who have suggested the undertakings are confident that existing defense contractors would secure many of the contracts for the research work.

There appears to have been some expectation that the Committee might recommend the appropriation of funds for competitions in certain specific fields of research. The Committee is in no position to make any such recommendation. It has received much exhortation but no hard information which would indicate the probability of high payoffs from such new research. However, the Committee clearly is not the appropriate organization to review specific proposals of this sort, since it lacks facilities for receiving and evaluating large bodies of technical, budgetary, and similar specialized information. But the Committee does intend to study whether the Federal Government—outside the areas of defense, space, and atomic energy—is adequately staffed and appropriately organized to evaluate complex proposals for large-scale research and development relating to civilian needs. It will be particularly interested in reviewing the plans for (and, later, the experience of) the new unit for program evaluation in the Bureau of the Budget.

PROPOSALS FOR EXPANDED UTILIZATION OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IN EXISTING GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

The Committee intends also to explore the suggestion that it recommend to the administrators of existing Government nondefense programs that the procedures and specifications of existing programs of procurement should be revised, to permit more effective application of advanced technology and systems engineering. The reasoning is that, by specifying overall performance rather than details of construction or design, Government purchases of such items as housing for military dependents, hospitals, or educational facilities can be made at substantially lower costs in terms of program effectiveness. It is assumed that defense contractors would be interested in, and successful in, bidding on such a basis. Similar revised procedures might be applied to the procurement of services, including the possible substitution of purchased services for those performed "in house."

The Committee has evidence which suggests that this approach is beginning to be used in some areas of Federal procurement, and hopes to review that experience.

ADVANCE PROGRAM PREPARATION BY STATES AND COMMUNITIES

The Committee believes that there has now been sufficient experience with the termination of major contracts and the closing or cut-back of military installations so that States and communities which are potentially vulnerable to such events should, if they have not already done so, begin actively to study the extent and nature of their dependence on defense production, and begin to develop programs which could be implemented if the need should arise. It is