

THE FUTURE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee believes that its work should be continued. There is need for a continuing review and coordination of the work of the Federal agencies relating to the economic impact of defense and to the problems of conversion or adjustment which arise from shifts or reductions in defense activity. It feels that a Committee of senior officials from the agencies actively responsible for defense-related activities, for studies of the economic effects of those activities, and for programs that can assist in conversion or adjustment is, for the present, an effective and necessary device.

Such a Committee needs to have a full-time staff to expedite and give continuity to its work. But it needs no authority to make contracts or grants for studies relevant to its work. Those studies can be made by the agencies represented on the Committee, or these agencies can make and supervise contracts or grants for this purpose. The Committee's responsibility should extend only to the suggestion, coordination, and review of such studies.

The Committee, or the agencies represented on it, can supply a needed link with the staffs of congressional committees, State and local government bodies, and universities and other public and private organizations in the area of research on the economic impact of defense and disarmament. It can also stimulate additional agencies or groups, within and outside the Government, to devote more effort to research on the economic impact of defense programs.

LINES OF EMPHASIS IN FUTURE WORK

The Committee has considered the general nature of a program, and it believes that there are five areas that should be emphasized.

First, there is vital need for more adequate, comprehensive, and accurate *information and analysis* of the impact of defense programs on the U.S. economy. The final chapter of this report outlines what we know, what we need to know, and the efforts now being made to learn more. The continuing development of such information should be a principal concern of the Committee.

Second, the experience under existing and new programs to aid in defense adjustment will need continuing *review and evaluation*. This evaluation is, of course, a primary responsibility of the operating agencies. But the Committee can serve a useful function by encouraging the agencies to make these evaluations, by reviewing them from time to time itself, and by calling to the attention of principal officials the need to correct any deficiencies that may be disclosed.

Third, there is need for continued improvement in the *coordination* of Federal programs relating to the economic impact of defense, and of Federal programs with those of State and local governments. This should continue to be a principal concern of the Committee.

Fourth, the Committee wishes to encourage a continuing *study and analysis of the opportunities*, as well as the problems, created by shifting defense programs. Although the Nation will continue to require large resources for defense, the accomplishments of the intensive defense production effort of recent years and the possibility of reduced international tensions in the years ahead may provide important opportunities to use a growing share of our output for other