

APPENDIX II-B

Concerning the present and future U.S. program funding needs, please consider (b) what effect would any lapse of funds have on the international program as a whole and upon the prestige of American science and the United States in general?

Answer: The Executive Committee of the U.S. National Committee feels that a lapse in funds of this sort "would not greatly affect the prestige of American science." At the same time, this Committee carefully points out: experience during the last fifteen years has demonstrated that if any international scientific program is to be successful, the United States must take a strong and vigorous role. The Committee, in analyzing this question, applied the analogy of a "critical mass"; with added "fuel" the program will "go"; with decreased "fuel" the program will falter. The critical mass analogy in this case relates to the belief of the Executive Committee that biologists in many countries desire to establish and carry out the intensive coordination involved in this program.

Greater in importance than national prestige or prestige of U.S. science is the need recognized by scientists nationally and internationally to attain greater understanding of the interdependence of plants, animals and man and the environmental conditions and factors that influence their relationships. If such understanding is not attained, there may be destructive consequences for mankind and his environment and therefore a design for progress is urgent. This point was touched on by Dr. Roger Revelle in his prepared statement of 9 May:

"In our times of unprecedented change, biologists are well aware of the rapidly growing ability of their fellow human beings to alter the face of the earth through technology. But they are equally aware that these alterations can bring about far-spreading and often destructive changes in the web of life that is stretched so thinly over the surface of our planet. Our technology has out-paced our understanding, our cleverness has grown faster than our wisdom."

Dr. David Gates in his testimony of 3 August also described this urgent need. Both Dr. Revelle and Dr. Gates suggest that the IBP offers the initial opportunity for scientists nationally and internationally to create this design for progress.