Chairman PROXMIRE. This, then, would put the Government accounts pretty much on a 1-for-1 basis——

Mr. CAPRON. Yes, sir.

Chairman PROXMIRE (continuing). With private accounting.

Mr. CAPRON. Yes, sir.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Do you agree with that, Mr. Stein?

Mr. STEIN. Yes, sir.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Do you agree with this analysis that this is a better method, therefore, than the NIA offers of estimating the impact on the economy of the Federal fiscal policy?

Mr. STEIN. Yes; I think it is better. There is a question as to whether it is worth all the trouble involved to do it. I think that probably there are only relatively few occasions when this becomes of great significance. It probably was of some significance in the second half of 1965. It becomes of great significance when the program is changing in size rapidly. And it would be possible, I think, satistically to make some estimate of this impact. In fact, efforts have been made to do this without tracking down every particular item.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Mr. Lewis told us the day before yesterday, that he anticipates that the budget is going to have a more restraining influence—fiscal policy is going to have a more restraining influence than it had several months ago.

Now, this is not reflected—he said that this is much better reflected in the proposed budget than it is in the administrative budget, for example, or even the NIA or cash budget.

You gentlemen perhaps have not had a chance to analyze or put the consequences of all the actions that have gone on in recent months giving us an added administrative deficit of $29 billion possibly minus a tax increase into, grind it into the proposed budget concepts. But if this is true, and if the description you have given us is correct, this would mean we would be in a much better position to assess the wisdom of increasing taxes or decreasing spending at the present time with the proposed budget, if we have the proposed budget as a tool and if we were to rely, as most of us are now doing, on the administrative budget.

Mr. STEIN. Well. I think we are certainly agreed that the administrative budget is not very useful for your purposes——

Chairman PROXMIRE. This is what the President keeps using all the time, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Council of Economic Advisers. They keep pointing at $29 billion. They have forgotten about the NIA budget and the cash budget. They have said nothing about it since January.

Mr. STEIN. That, of course, illustrates my basic point that people use the definition of the budget which is convenient for them. And I do not think we will ever get away from that. We just have to decide what is convenient——

Chairman PROXMIRE. We can get away from it if these concepts disappear as Mr. Kennedy recommends, and his Commission includes the Secretary of the Treasury and the Budget Director.

Mr. STEIN. Oh, well, I do not think that this Commission, however authoritative it is, will establish permanent censorship on what people call the budget from now on.

Chairman PROXMIRE. But the President would be in a much weaker position if he should shift to the proposed budget not only