

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

MR. PRESIDENT: Your Commission on Budget Concepts presents herewith our recommendations on what we believe to be a truly modern and progressive budget presentation for the Federal Government.

The present Federal budget is in most essentials sound and useful. The Commission has gained new and deep respect for its quality and thoroughness and for the ability and devotion to duty of the civil servants involved in its preparation.

But we find that some improvements definitely are needed to make the budget presentation more responsive to the many purposes it serves. Most particularly, we believe there is a need for certain changes in concepts and in classification that will enhance public and congressional understanding of the budget and will increase its usefulness for purposes of decision making, public policy determination, and financial planning.

In making these recommendations, the Commission takes note of the broad authority granted to the President by the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 to determine the precise form in which to present the budget to the Congress. We urge that work begin immediately to provide the necessary information and data so that those recommendations which meet with your approval can be introduced into the budget at the earliest practical moment. We hope that many of these changes can be made in the 1969 budget document which you will present to the Congress this coming January—although we realize that the fundamental nature of many of our recommendations, and the work required to carry them out, may preclude their adoption so rapidly.

This is not an interim or progress report. It is intended to be a full and complete report, which discharges the responsibilities you have placed upon us. Its preparation has been made possible through the outstanding cooperative efforts of many government agencies, private organizations, and individuals.

The Commission owes a special debt of gratitude to the unselfish cooperation and very real contributions of individual staff members of the Bureau of the Budget, the Treasury Department, the General Accounting Office, several committees of the Congress (most particularly, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives), the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the