

that this unified concept henceforth be referred to as the Budget of the United States; and that it be consistently adhered to in:

- The President's January budget;*
- Publications revising the budget estimates or reporting results at year-end;*
- Monthly financial reports from the Treasury on actual budget results;*
- Estimates of overall budget results offered by the executive branch in congressional testimony and public statements on the need for tax or public debt legislation; and*
- Reports on congressional action on the budget.*

The Commission recognizes that no single budget summary can adequately serve all the different purposes of the various users of Federal Government financial data, including the Government itself. Specialized tabulations of Federal receipts, expenditures, and appropriations are required for many purposes. Indeed, some of these are suitable for inclusion in the budget document itself or as special analyses. Other specialized tabulations may be developed and presented by outside experts or by Federal statistical agencies. But such alternative tabulations for special purposes, whether or not included in the budget document or other executive branch financial reports and statements on the Federal budget, *should be treated as subordinate or explanatory tabulations. They should not be regarded as "budgets" competing in prominence and attention with the basic Budget of the United States.*

TWO MAJOR PURPOSES

Of the various purposes for which the President's budget is prepared, two closely related purposes outweigh the rest. The budget is intended primarily to present the President's proposals for the coming fiscal year for congressional action on (1) new legislation and appropriations and (2) overall fiscal policy. These purposes are well described in the President's initial words in his budget message for fiscal year 1968 transmitted to the Congress on January 24, 1967:

"A Federal budget lays out a two-part plan of action:

- It proposes *particular programs*, military and civilian, designed to promote national security, international cooperation, and domestic progress.
- It proposes *total expenditures and revenues* designed to help maintain stable economic prosperity and growth."

In short, the budget must serve simultaneously as an aid in decisions about both the efficient allocation of resources among competing claims and economic stabilization and growth.