

of the budget program by function in Part 4 of the budget document has been expanded in recent years to include trust funds as well as the administrative budget funds, but these have been kept distinct and separate. Consistent with the new unified concept, Part 4 should now be more fully integrated to arrive at the functional totals on a consolidated basis. Likewise, there are passages at many points in the budget document referring to *the budget* meaning the administrative budget. This traditional method of presentation should also be recast now.

The frequent contacts with the financial community made by the Treasury Department as it prepares to offer new issues of Treasury securities should be conducted within the framework of the new budget concept, as should congressional testimony of administration officials on legislation relating to the public debt.

It is worth stressing that the publication, *The Budget in Brief*, plays a most important role in communicating the significant facts about the budget to the public. It is the document that many Members of Congress, under pressure of time, lean on heavily in gaining their first impressions about the new budget. And it is read by a far larger number of the general public than the budget document itself. Therefore, it is important that *The Budget in Brief* be consistent in concepts and emphasis with the budget itself and point up the aspects of the budget most worthy of public note.

By attention to such aspects of budget presentation, a very substantial improvement in public understanding can be brought about through executive branch leadership. The presentation of the next budget following the adoption of the Commission's recommendations should start the process of public education to the new concepts and the executive branch should aim to clarify these concepts further both in its formal congressional presentation and in its January budget seminars and other dealings with the press. Press representatives have expressed their belief that Government agencies, in their individual press seminars or briefings, should use the same budget concepts as the Bureau of the Budget and the Treasury Department in their joint seminar, although the type of inquiry made by the press necessarily requires the use of agency accounting data which go into greater detail than the overall budget totals. The Commission favors a study by the executive branch of other methods of increasing public understanding of the budget.

Keeping budget information current

But the task of improving public understanding and informed use of budget information cannot be accomplished by a single seminar or set of seminars in January when the budget for the following fiscal year is first presented. The press and public (including such special groups within the public as economists, security analysts, business organizations, labor unions, taxpayer organizations, farm organizations, and financial institutions) require information throughout the year on how Government pro-