

of the President crammed into a few hectic weeks before the appearance of the budget in January. With the growing size and complexity of the budget commensurate with the growth and evolution of the Federal Government itself in the modern world, the sheer burden of producing the budget document, the *Budget in Brief*, the budget *Appendix* in all its present detail, and the variety of *Special Analyses* and supporting tables and information, all of which now appear simultaneously in January, has become a matter of serious concern. In fact, the Commission has been given to understand that it may soon become impossible to prepare the budget *Appendix* in its present form for release at the same time as the budget itself.

Most of the present *Appendix* detail owes its inclusion to needs expressed in the past by the Committees on Appropriations. Indeed, under the Budget and Accounting Procedures Act of 1950, some parts of the *Appendix* detail may not be deleted or changed without prior joint approval of these committees. In the last 17 years since this law was enacted, however, the Committees have appeared to rely more and more, in their consideration of appropriation requests, on agency justification materials which contain detailed information custom-fitted to the Committees' specifications for the particular agency and programs under consideration. As this information has proved better suited to the Committees' needs, they have approved changes in the material provided in the *Appendix*. In the light of recent study by the Bureau of the Budget, it seems quite possible that some of the material now contained in the *Appendix* may no longer be needed by the Committees, or could now be made available to them in some better way.

Bearing in mind, then, all these considerations, and, in addition, the fact that some of its recommendations in this report would add to the amount of work in producing the budget document and supporting material, at least temporarily, the Commission therefore urges that:

*The Director of the Bureau of the Budget should make a critical review, consulting with the Committees on Appropriations of the Congress, of the material in the budget Appendix, with the objectives of eliminating material which is no longer useful and minimizing the burden of producing the Appendix simultaneously with the budget.*

There is no doubt that failure to produce a useful and meaningful budget *Appendix* for release at approximately the time of release of the budget document would be regarded as a serious loss by Members of Congress and many outside the Government. So far as the Committees on Appropriations are concerned, their loss might be lessened to some degree by their access to detailed justification materials prepared especially for the Committees in connection with agency budget hearings. However, without the *Appendix*, other Members of Congress would have difficulty locating the details of the budget. The press, the business and financial communities, private researchers, and many interested private parties who are especially concerned