NEW OBLIGATIONAL AUTHORITY (NOA)—Authority becoming newly available for a given year, provided by current or prior actions of the Congress, enabling Federal agencies to obligate the Government to pay out money. At present, NOA may consist of appropriations, contract authority, or authority to spend debt receipts. Under the Commission's recommendations, the word "appropriations" will be applied to the present concept of NOA.

NO-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS—Appropriations which remain available for obligation and expenditure until the objectives for which they were made have been completed, without requiring further congressional action.

NONRECOURSE LOANS—Loans, such as advances to farmers by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), the terms of which provide that the borrower may forfeit his collateral rather than repay the loan, and be under no further legal obligation to the lender.

OBLIGATED BALANCE—That portion of the balance of an appropriation account which is necessary to pay for obligations already incurred, but for which expenditures have not been made.

OBLIGATIONAL AUTHORITY—Authority provided by the Congress to enter into obligations requiring the Federal Government to pay out money. For any year, it is equal to new obligational authority plus unobligated balances brought forward from prior years.

OBLIGATIONS—Contracts or other valid commitments to pay out money made by Federal departments and agencies.

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATES—Interest-bearing instruments representing shares in a pool of Government-held loans. Under present practice, the Government continues to service the individual loans, and takes the loss on any defaults.

PERMANENT AUTHORIZATIONS—An authorization automatically becoming available by virtue of previous legislation, without current action by the Congress.

PLANNING-PROGRAMMING-BUDGETING SYSTEM (PPBS)—Procedures receiving increasing use and importance in recent years in the preparation of agency budgets, which specify program objectives in quantitative terms, measure benefits, and seek least cost solutions through the budget process.

PREPAYMENTS—Payments to a contractor in advance of performance usually in order to provide the contractor with working capital necessary for the fulfillment of the contract. In an accrual system, these are receivables (assets) rather than expenditures, until performance occurs.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET MESSAGE OR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—The annual message sent by the President to the Congress each January outlining his budget requests for the coming fiscal year and explaining his major budget proposals.

PROGRESS PAYMENTS—Payments made to contractors in recognition of partial completion of work on contracts.

PUBLIC DEBT—The total of all securities outstanding representing direct debts of the United States Treasury.

PUBLIC DEBT CEILING—The maximum level established by the Congress of the public debt subject to limit. See also "Debt Subject to Limit."

PUBLIC ENTERPRISE FUNDS—Revolving funds authorized by specific provisions of law to finance a continuing cycle of operations with receipts from such operations, derived primarily from sources outside the Government, available in their entirety for use by the fund.

PUBLIC ENTERPRISES—Business-type activities of the Government which generate receipts to cover, or partially cover, their expenses. Major examples are the Post Office, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Commodity Credit Corporation.