

Senator SYMINGTON. At that time I was handling the relief in question in the executive branch.

Mr. STAATS. I would like to say one thing further, Mr. Chairman, mostly by way of emphasis. I think cost-effectiveness studies, including the discount rate, are most useful when we are talking about a common type program. It is not too useful in comparing, say, guided missiles with job training. They are most useful when we are talking about ways in which you can accomplish a given object in the least cost terms, and while we have talked a great deal here this morning about flood control and water development, one of the things which has not been given adequate attention in the area, in my opinion, has been the possibility of flood-plain zoning as one of the ways in which you can achieve the same objectives at much lower costs, and this is because we have not—

Senator SYMINGTON. What was that?

Mr. STAATS. Zoning in the flood plain where you have an established, known flood area, which you can zone to use for different purposes than otherwise it might be used.

Maybe it can be used for a park or maybe it can be used for one purpose or another that does not suffer severe damage from floods.

Now, this is a subject which is getting a lot more attention now as a result of the executive branch report put out about a year ago.

In many cases it would be much cheaper to control the situation before it develops, in effect, rather than having to build expensive structures to protect them after they are once built up.

Now, this is better for the future situation, and it does not really solve the problem if you already have that development in place.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Senator Jordan?

Senator JORDAN. Just one more question in defense of flexibility. The Department of Defense has many varied activities. We mentioned a good deal about flood control and navigation, even improvement of water quality, a proper function of some water project, and these are benefits and costs to which you apply one set of criteria. But how do we evaluate those prioritywise as against an expenditure of the same Department of Defense which it will make for a missile or a silo which we hope we will never have to use?

Mr. STAATS. Well, I do not believe that any of the techniques of cost-effectiveness is going to give you an answer to that question, in my opinion.

I do believe that it is important if you are considering the anti-ballistic missile program that you have a careful analysis made of any other way in which you could accomplish the same objective. I think that is what we are really saying here.

Senator JORDAN. I only bring this out in defense of your recommendation of flexibility, with which I fully agree. I do not think you could establish one overall rate that would be applicable even in one department of Government, the Defense Department.

Mr. STAATS. I think there can be some statement of principles, and I think there can be far greater consistency than we now have.

Senator JORDAN. Yes. Thank you.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Thank you.

I have just one other question, and that is whether or not you have any indication of how many programs are calculated at more than just one discount rate?