

ment. In acting upon these recommendations, the Council has adopted the policy, which has been approved by the Committee on Appropriations, providing that the annual Federal contribution to each commission may equal 50 percent of total operating costs. The balance is funded by the participating States.

Governors of certain States within the Missouri River Basin and the Ohio River Basin have requested establishment of commissions for those basins, but the number of requests or concurrences so far, in each case, is insufficient for establishment. Discussion of the desirability of a Pacific Southwest River Basins Commission has occurred among representatives of the States concerned, but no official proposal for a commission has yet been made. Also certain States in the Upper Mississippi River region are actively considering this matter, as are certain others in the Southeast region.

The first four commissions, as I indicated, were established upon the initiative and unanimous request of the concerned States. State initiative is most desirable and the Council has not chosen to take such action upon itself. However, every opportunity afforded has been taken to make known to Governors and others the method of operation of Federal-State river basin commissions, and their advantages over other available means for Federal and Federal-State coordination and preparation of comprehensive river basin plans. As this information becomes widespread, and the present commissions demonstrate their advantages, further initiatives to establish additional river basin commissions will undoubtedly be taken by the States.

TITLE I—WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

The Water Resources Council, as created by title I, was composed initially of the Secretaries of Agriculture; the Army; Health, Education, and Welfare; the Interior; and the Chairman of the Federal Power Commission. The Secretary of Transportation was added by the Department of Transportation Act of 1966.

Included by Council regulation, as associate members, are the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; and, as observers, the Attorney General and the Director of the Bureau of the Budget. All of these officials have substantial statutory responsibilities with regard to water. Section 101 of the act provides that "heads of other Federal agencies" shall be requested to participate with the Council when matters affecting their responsibilities are considered by the Council. Status as associate member or observer enables these officials to keep regularly informed of the business of the Council and decide for themselves when matters affecting their responsibilities are being considered.

Each of the members, associate members, and observers has named a representative who functions with the Executive Director in the conduct of the Council's business between meetings of their principals. The principals meet regularly every 3 months and on the call of the chairman. The representatives, with the Executive Director acting as a voting chairman, meet almost every week. Decisions at this level can be made only by unanimous agreement. Disagreements automatically become issues for consideration by the principals. Major matters, as