

*Fourth function.*—To coordinate schedules, budgets and programs of Federal agencies in comprehensive regional or river basin planning (derivative of section 102(b)).

In response to the recommendation of the Senate select committee that comprehensive water development plans be prepared for all the Nation's major river basins, 10 comprehensive framework-type studies are underway. One "new start" for fiscal year 1969, that for the Great Basin, is now before the Committee on Appropriations. Others will need to be started later. More detailed comprehensive basin studies are also in process in 15 smaller basins.

Interdepartmental coordination of these studies predates the act. Greater effort is warranted to coordinate them than has been possible to date.

*Fifth function.*—To review comprehensive river basin plans prepared in the field and to transmit them, together with its recommendations, to the President for transmittal to the Congress (section 104).

One of the comprehensive framework-type studies, that for the Ohio River Basin, will be ready for Council review in July of this year. Two more detailed basin studies have been completed and are now before the Council for review and action. This review process is critical, not only to assure that a field study is technically sound and to arrive at appropriate Council recommendations, but also to discover needed changes in current instructions to improve preparation of such studies.

*Sixth function.*—To carry out its responsibilities with regard to the creation, operation, and termination of Federal-State river basin commissions (specified in title II).

The current status of Federal-State river basin commissions has already been discussed. I will only add here that this function demands substantial Council staff time, particularly that of the executive director, the deputy director and the administrative officer.

These six functions, together with the seventh (which I have already discussed), relating to the title III program, involve a very substantial body of work.

The most critical factor in the proper performance of these functions is dedicated and skilled staff work preparatory to Council deliberations. Whether deliberations are being conducted by representatives of the principals or the principals themselves, they are most fruitful when they can focus upon thoughtfully prepared documents, setting forth necessary analysis of facts, clear identification of issues, and alternative courses of action that might be taken.

In a body of this kind, not all staff work for the Council should be undertaken by the Council staff. Much staff work should continue to be done by the departmental staffs, but this, too, requires arrangements to be made by the Council staff. Adequate control staff work is clearly a critical factor in the Council's performance of its function.

The Council staff now numbers 24 persons, including clerical employees. Ten of these employees work on the title III grant program.

The remaining 14, which includes the executive director and deputy director, clearly constitute an inadequate staff input in the opinion of the Council members themselves.

The Bureau of the Budget has concurred in this conclusion. In addition, the Bureau advised that the Council's functions would best be