

Also, I might add in this connection that training of planning personnel—both Federal personnel in the field as well as State professional personnel—could contribute substantially to improved planning. Shortage of adequately trained personnel appears to be the chief stumbling block at the present time facing State agencies in developing their competence with the aid of title III funds. A number of these agencies are utilizing the training provisions of title III to help themselves in this regard. Federal agencies, of course, have authority and funds for training their personnel. And the universities, speaking through the universities Council on Water Resources, have expressed their ability and willingness to make their contributions in this regard. Nevertheless, there is need for a sharp focus to bring these efforts together and to effectively match a competent supply of personnel with the potential demand. The Council has been thinking of its appropriate role in this situation as one of a catalyst and coordinator. No action has yet been taken because of preoccupation of staff with other important matters.

Fourth function—Coordination of comprehensive planning schedules, budgets and programs: Chairman Udall's statement also indicated in his testimony the 10 large-basin comprehensive framework studies and the 15 small basin more detailed comprehensive studies that are now underway.

Budgets for comprehensive studies coordinated by the Council are formulated initially in the field by the appropriate Federal-State coordinating group in each area. Each such field-coordinated budget is then reviewed and approved by the Council and submitted to the Bureau of the Budget for its consideration when acting upon the individual budgets of each participating department and agency. During the life of a study, each budget is reviewed annually in accordance with general guidelines of the Council by the field coordinating group with a view to proposing any necessary reallocations of effort or other adjustments. For example, the coordinated budget for the Columbia-North Pacific Comprehensive Study is now reviewed each year by the new Pacific Northwest River Basins Commission. Proposed changes are considered and approved by the Council and then submitted to the Bureau of the Budget.

The aim of this coordination process is to avoid duplication of effort between the several participating Federal departments and agencies, to achieve a balanced planning effort in terms of their respective responsibilities and capabilities, and to assure so far as possible that all related planning adds up properly and that the total makes sense. The aim also is to avoid duplication with State and other non-Federal planning activities and to identify specific inputs that non-Federal entities are able to make to these studies. These inputs are now supported, in part, by financial grants from the Council provided under title III of the Water Resources Planning Act. As contemplated by that act, comprehensive river basin studies coordinated by the Council will increasingly include planning aimed toward desirable non-Federal actions in addition to Federal projects.

Only 1 man-year of the Council's professional staff time, in addition to the contribution of the Assistant Director, can now be devoted to this important work. A modest increase would pay for itself several times over in better planned studies and coordinated budgets.