

5. Formulate recommendations for program emphasis and allocation of resources.

6. Function as a clearinghouse of information on planning techniques, to aid departments and agencies in formulating their individual plans and programs.

The first chairman of this Committee was Dr. Harvey Brooks, the only chairman of a Federal Council Committee who was not a Federal official. The Committee's activities were described in the Federal Council's reports for 1962 and for 1963-64. The draft FCST report for 1965 does not mention the Committee at all. According to the Office of the Federal Council's secretary, this Committee is presently inactive.

The Interdepartmental Study of Long-Range Planning.—One early undertaking of the Committee on Long-Range Planning was to begin a survey to develop a projection through 1970 of research and development plans and requirements of the Federal agencies. Working with the Science Resources Planning Office of the NSF, data was to be sought for funds, facilities, and technical manpower requirements.

The Federal Council described preparations for this report as follows:

With due consideration for practicability of data solicitation, definitions were formulated and categories selected for in-house versus out-of-house; basic versus applied research and development; of different fields and subfields of science and of objects of science (missions). Assumptions which underlie planning and constraints imposed by agency, departmental, executive, and legislative branches are also being studied.

A series of briefings have begun by representatives of individual agencies to share their experience in planning policies and practices.³

The study, however, was not published by the Federal Council, which gave the following reasons:

1. It was difficult to secure from all agencies usable assessments of basic goals, issues and alternatives because some were more immersed in looking ahead and had a more favorable attitude toward long-range planning than others.

2. The initial approach had centered upon one dimension of planning—resource use as measured by money and manpower, and had placed less stress upon matters of vital practical significance, such as identification of goals, and alternative paths of program development.

3. Attention and resources directed to future consequences of current decisions, and their implications, were not fully adequate at all points of the Government. Here the report specifically said that the OST did not have the staff resources required to keep attention centered on the major goals of the study, and that the National Science Foundation was not adequately equipped to guide the study toward exploration of policy issues.

4. Finally, it had proven impossible in this first effort to add the data from the agencies together for the Federal Government as a whole in a meaningful way.⁴

Looking at this experience, the Federal Council observed that planning must proceed simultaneously in a number of largely autonomous spheres, which had important implications for planning process, for there could be no such thing as "the plan."

* * * there can under such a concept be no thing as "the plan," just as there is no simple, single national science policy. There are many plans, each representing a valid way of looking at science and technology. This characteristic of planning process is consistent with our pluralistic approach to the definition and resolution of important public matters. Pluralism allows wide participation and the stressing of various kinds of legitimate goals. This sort of process is a familiar one in political affairs, and it makes planning for science consistent with our fundamental traditions.⁵

The Council's conclusion was that such developments as the experience of the Committee on Long-Range Planning had led to concepts and methods of long-range planning for science which are more realistic and more complex than those of a few years ago. Future activities of the Federal Council related to long-range planning will reflect experience accumulated by all of these groups.

The OST and Long-Range Planning.—Statements by the OST have shown its interest in long-range planning for research and development. Its budget state-

³ Federal Council for Science and Technology; 1962 Annual Report, op. cit., p. 13.

⁴ The Role of the Federal Council for Science and Technology: Report for 1963 and 1964, op. cit., p. 20.

⁵ Ibid., p. 22.