

*Question 17. How many new laboratories are in the planning stages for the next five years? Of these, how many are in the newer agencies or resulting from new national programs? What dollar investment? How many Federal laboratories are scheduled for phase-out or closure during this same time period? How many are scheduled for transfer from one agency to another?*

Answer. A survey of the principal agencies revealed the following with respect to the questions posed, exclusive of cost estimates:

a. The Department of Transportation is considering the need for two facilities—a Highway Safety Bureau research facility to carry out DOT responsibilities under the Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 and a high speed ground transportation test center which may be needed for evaluation and full scale testing of new systems or components being developed.

b. The Department of Commerce is considering the need for several building research facilities and a corrosion research laboratory.

c. With respect to the Department of Health Education and Welfare:

(1) The following major facilities are in the planning stages for the period 1969-1973:

NICHHD Research Facility

Mental Health Child Research Center

Neurology—Child Health Facility, Puerto Rico.

Environmental Health Sciences Center, Research Triangle, N.C.

Neurology—Allergy Virus Facility

National Acarine Reference Center, Hamilton, Montana

Dental Health Center Addition, San Francisco

NIH Animal Center, Phase II

NIH Animal Center, Phase III

(2) Within the Health Services and Mental Health Administration there are 14 new laboratories in the planning stage, 4 involving newer agencies or new national programs. There are two laboratories scheduled for phase-out.

(3) There are two new Food and Drug Administration laboratories in the planning stages for the next five years, neither of which is in a newer agency or results from new national programs.

d. The Department of Defense is planning the consolidation of 10 Army medical laboratories into three major medical centers. The possibility of other DOD consolidations is being studied but no definitive information regarding these is yet available.

Several agencies report they are now considering the question of establishing, consolidating and phasing-out laboratories, but any discussion of future plans (including cost estimates) at this time would be most premature.

*Question. 18. Can you explain in some detail why there are manpower ceilings in addition to funding ceilings for Federal agencies? Where did the initial requirement stem from and what has been the history of this control?*

Answer. As stated in our response to question 15 above, we regard personnel ceilings as one of several important management techniques designed to control resources. The amount of funds available to an agency does not necessarily control the number of people employed. To illustrate, in the absence of some manpower controls, agencies could direct program funds to payrolls or delay recruiting until late in the year and thus increase the number of employees the Congress and the President actually provided for. This delayed recruitment could result in agency requests for funds to annualize this increased number of employees in the succeeding year. Thus, manpower ceiling serve as a tool supplementing funds control for more effective and economic use of resources.

With the expansion of Federal programs over the past few years, the Congress frequently has expressed anxiety about the number of Federal employees. One expression of this concern has been the monthly publication of employment statistics by the Committee on the Reduction of Non-Essential Expenditures. The clear implication drawn from congressional expressions is that the executive branch should firmly hold employment levels.

The Department of Defense has maintained its own system of employment ceilings for a number of years. In 1963, the President imposed personnel ceilings upon all executive branch agencies. Those ceilings, however, have not been rigid or arbitrary, and employment has been permitted to rise as needed to perform the tasks authorized by the Congress—from 2,490,000 in 1963 to an estimated 2,932,000 in 1968.

*Question 19. How are manpower ceilings generally administered? By the BOB? By the agencies?*

Answer. Again our comments are addressed to the situation existing prior to July 1, 1968.