

not to exercise close control over the objectives and direction of research. Since all relevant Government agencies are now empowered to use grants instead of contracts in supporting basic research, the wider use of this authority should be encouraged.

Apart from this matter, three others seem worthy of comment.

One arises from the extensive use of contracts (or grants) for specific and precisely identified projects. Often there is a tendency to believe that in providing support for a single specific project the chance of finding a solution to a problem is being maximized. In reality, however, less specific support often would permit more effective research in broad areas of science, or in interdisciplinary fields, and provide greater freedom in drawing in more scientists to participate in the work that is undertaken. Universities, too, often find project support cumbersome and awkward. A particular professor may be working on several projects financed by several Government agencies and must make arbitrary decisions in allocating expenses to a particular project. It thus appears both possible and desirable to move in the direction of using grants to support broader programs, or to support the more general activities of an institution, rather than to tie each allocation of funds to a specific project. A number of Government agencies have been moving in this direction and it would be desirable to expand the use of such forms of support as experience warrants.

At the same time, it would not, in our judgment, be appropriate to place major reliance on the institutional grant, since the major purpose of making grants in most cases is to assure that the university personnel and facilities concerned will be devoted to pursuing specific courses of inquiry.

A second problem associated with the support of research at universities is whether the Government should pay all costs, including indirect expenses or "overhead," associated with work financed by the Government. We believe this matter involves two related but distinct questions, which should be separated in considering the appropriate policy to be followed.

1. We believe there is no question that, in those cases in which it is desirable for the Government to pay the entire cost of work done at a university, the Government should pay for allowable indirect as well as direct costs. To do otherwise would be discriminatory against universities in comparison with other kinds of institutions. For purposes of financial and accounting simplicity, in those cases where grants are used, and it is desirable for the Government to pay all allowable costs, it may be possible to work out a uniform or average percentage figure which could be regarded as covering indirect costs.

2. We believe there are many cases in which it is neither necessary nor desirable for the Government to pay all the costs of the work to be done. In many fields of research, a university may gain a great deal from having the research in question done on its campus, with the participation of its faculty and students, and may be able and willing to share in the costs, either through its regular funds or through raising additional funds from foundations, alumni, or by other means. The extent and degree of cost-sharing can and should vary among different agencies and programs, and we are not prepared at this time to suggest any uniform standards—except the negative one that it