

I did not mean to be too critical of you gentlemen from the Interior Department. I think that your decision to increase the rate to 4 $\frac{5}{8}$ percent is statesmanlike and sensible, and certainly can be justified on any kind of an economic basis.

I question whether it is enough, but it is an excellent beginning.

I am delighted to see the Bureau of the Budget is so concerned about this and is working as you have demonstrated, Mr. Hoffman, in the direction of a more consistent rate for all the agencies. I think that once we get this, we can begin to establish some priority. Then, when we increase or decrease spending, we can do it on the basis of much more reason than we have in the past.

You are so right, Mr. Hoffman, in the argument that this cannot be the basis for a definitive decision; all it is is a guideline. But it can be an enormously helpful guideline, believe me, in congressional debate and in finally getting a result that enables us to grow as much as our resources will permit.

Thank you, gentlemen, very much. The subcommittee will reconvene at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning in the public hearing room of the Atomic Energy Committee, room S-407.

(Whereupon, at 12:40 p.m., the Subcommittee on Economy in Government recessed, to reconvene at 10 a.m., Wednesday, July 31, 1968.)