

The objective of the study is to define the nature and extent of government participation in aeronautics R&D as guided by maximum national return on the investment. Because air transportation is having a major impact on many phases of national development, it is clear that no simple, quick study can achieve the desired end. It may well prove necessary and valuable to continue the study over many years to account properly for the impact of changing technology and changing national requirements.

Initially the study is making time-value analyses to identify grossly the areas of technology to be emphasized as based simply on value of the traveler's time; these analyses provide focus on areas for more detailed study. Much of this broad analysis is complete. The studies will then be directed at determining cost-benefit relations of achieving new and applied technology in specific areas. Costs considered will include those of both government and industry and benefits considered will include both industry returns and national effects. The complexity of the problem has dictated that one area be examined first in some detail. The objective here is as much to establish methods of study and analysis as to obtain first definitive results. It is estimated now that this first focused study effort will be completed by the end of FY 1969.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Cannon?

COMMENTS NASA OFFICIALS

Senator CANNON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, first, I would like to express my appreciation to the chairman of the committee for the great support he has given to this entire program, and I have some matters relating to the NERVA program that I want to go into.

Our chairman has worked diligently every step of the way with the administration in meeting and attempting to solve the many obstacles that have been thrown up in connection with our entire space program, and as Mr. Webb said, he has certainly been very helpful in keeping this program going, and I want to commend him on it.

I also want to commend you, Mr. Webb, on your very fine tour of duty. I for one, will hate to see you leave. I think you have done an excellent job in this position and we will look forward to seeing you work on a consulting basis with NASA and the Administrator in the future.

Mr. WEBB. Thank you very much, Senator Cannon.

Senator CANNON. I also want to commend Deputy Administrator Paine and Mr. Beggs and Mr. Klein, who took time recently to personally inspect facilities at the Nuclear Rocket Development Station in Nevada. Our people out there were happy to have them there. We are very proud of those facilities and I am sure this will help them get a better feel for the progress that has been and is being made there. And, I want to acknowledge the constant and long-standing support given to the nuclear rocket program by Senator Hickenlooper and Senator Smith, and I regret that they cannot be here with us today. I know that Senator Smith does not often miss our meetings; and were she not hospitalized, she would certainly be here with us today.

NERVA PROGRAM

Now, as you know, Dr. Paine, I have been very much concerned about the NERVA program and about the level of the funding that was originally proposed. I note here now that you propose to add an additional \$7 million and I am sure that will add a great deal to boosting the morale of the scientists and engineers who have worked so long and so hard over the years to develop a team and the technology involved in the NERVA program. I have been reviewing the personnel