

as you fail to build the capability you really need to launch Saturn V's, as you operate on a very austere basis, as good people cannot quite see the future, you have an even greater problem because you begin to produce uncertainty among your best people. This is a problem and I think you are correct to put your finger on it.

Senator HOLLAND. Well, I think that the record here should show that you are being greatly hurt by the heavy reduction in the money available, as I understand is the fact, and I was fearful that the record did not show that.

Dr. PAINE. Yes, sir. I would certainly confirm that statement. It has one other effect that personally to me has been of some concern and that is that we are now having some rather major difficulties bringing the new young people into our program. When we are faced with reductions it tends to hit the young people and I am concerned about this aspect of our personnel balance.

Senator HOLLAND. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

NERVA FUNDING

Mr. GEHRIG. Dr. Paine, the budget plan that you presented to the committee today is the same as the earlier plan of September 8 except that it shows an additional \$7 million for the Nuclear Rockets Program and consequently, a higher total budget by \$7 million.

Has this been discussed with the Bureau of the Budget and does the Bureau of the Budget agree that the Nuclear Rockets Program ought to have \$7 million more?

Dr. PAINE. They have discussed with us this additional \$7 million which we have wished to put in here. They are aware of this but we do not have approval, of course, for our interim operating plan and, therefore, the \$7 million is merely an alteration of the plan for which we do not have approval.

Mr. GEHRIG. When they approve the plan, do they approve each individual program or just approve the plan in toto?

Dr. PAINE. Well, they are simply concerned at the moment with the total plan. At the same time, they are quite interested in the detailed structure and we do have discussions with them on the subsystems.

Mr. WEBB. They give their approval on the total plan on the basis of their examination and understanding of the individual items in the plan, but once they agree to the plan, including the individual items, they tend to leave you some flexibility with respect to what you do. But the amount that they included in the total plan is related to their evaluation of how well you have done your work on the individual items in the plan and this device you are referring to permits us to go to them and say we need this extra \$7 million and require concentrated attention on that need.

Senator CANNON. Mr. Chairman, will you yield? Have you had an indication that they approve your initial plan plus this additional \$7 million?

Mr. WEBB. We have had an indication that they are not objecting to our presenting to the committee the plan that we are presenting here today, but with no commitment of any kind on their part that they will convert this interim plan into a final plan on this basis.

Senator CANNON. Well, I do not imagine you would be here before the committee presenting a plan unless you had a fairly good feel that the plan was going to be approved.