

particularly the boiler and turbine, are not as far advanced. We have reached past the 2500-hour mark for the first improved boiler and turbine, and we are striving to increase the endurance of these components as much as possible by the end of FY 1969. We are also striving to achieve, as an interim goal and by the end of FY 1969, a 2500-hour endurance test of the first breadboarded power conversion system located at Aerojet-General.

In addition to the work at Aerojet, the Lewis Research Center is investigating the dynamic behavior of a SNAP-8 power conversion system which has been designed specifically for this purpose. These dynamic tests are also expected to be completed by the end of FY 1969.

Question 5. When will this be achieved?

Answer. The current goals of the SNAP-8 project will be essentially completed by the end of FY 1969, as more fully detailed in the answer to Question 1. The overall goals of the SNAP-8 project will require several more years of work.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

Question 6. On June 10th of this year the Senate passed H.R. 15856, the NASA FY 1969 authorization bill, cutting the Administrative Operations to \$603 million—the same figure as passed by the House and which is a cut of about \$45 million below the request. Therefore it was clear on that date that this amount could not be increased by a conference between the House and the Senate nor could the appropriation be more than \$603 million. On May 31, 1968, NASA had 33,202 on-board employees. Yet on August 31, after the \$45 million cut, NASA has 34,023 employees.

In the face of the Congressional action, why hasn't NASA taken some steps to reduce the number of personnel in the Agency?

Answer. NASA took immediate action to reduce employment upon passage of the NASA authorization by the House and before the action of the Senate. On May 16, Centers were placed on essentially an employment freeze, with Centers generally being permitted to replace only 25% of the vacancies occurring after May 13, when the employment of permanent civil service personnel was 32,291. Exceptions to the freeze were allowed for the conversion of contractor personnel at Goddard Space Flight Center, 127 positions, and for requirements at the Manned Spacecraft Center and Kennedy Space Center. As a result of actions taken, the actual employment at the end of the fiscal year was 32,471, as opposed to the prior plan of 32,669. The controls on employment have been in effect continuously since May, and employment in permanent positions has decreased to 32,142 on September 21, with incremental reductions planned to reach a level of 31,186 on June 30, 1969.

The increase in total employment between May 31, 1968, and August 31, 1968, is a result of the summer employment program which is particularly planned to provide for disadvantaged youths. The composition of the May 31 and August 31 total employment is as follows:

	May 31	Aug. 31	Difference
Full-time permanent employees.....	32,309	32,269	-40
Temporary employees.....	893	1,754	+861
Total.....	33,202	34,023	+821

As of September 21, the total employment has decreased to 32,998, a reduction of 1,035 from August 31, of which 127 were in permanent positions and 908 in the summer program.

Question 7. A recent NASA report to the Congress on NASA employment as of June 30, 1968, reflects a decrease from 1967 of 932 general schedule employees and 678 wage board employees for a total decrease of 1,610.

Conversely, NASA employed in jobs excepted from Civil Service by the Space Act of 1958, as amended, has increased 37 from 349 to 386.

How do you account for this increase in high level employment in a period of program leveling, if not a reduction in overall program activity?

Answer. The apparent increase of 37 from 349 to 386 in positions under section 203(b)(2) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended, is attributable to the fact that, although NASA employment levels have been decreasing, the qualitative demands of NASA's research and development pro-