

tests, permitted and are even now permitting large blocs of foreign energy to enter our shores. Residual fuel oil, for example, is decontrolled, for all practical purposes. So, too, is the importation of Canadian natural gas.

In allowing U.S. coal to face such an unrestricted attack, the U.S. Government is acquiescing in the weakening of an industry vital to domestic security and important in world trade. It would seem obvious that the present course is both illogical and self-defeating.

Many other industries and other trade unions are coming to the same conclusions. As a result, our entire concept of international commerce is being reevaluated in many quarters, including the Congress of the United States.

Hopefully, this inquiry will continue. For, even though we subscribe to the ideal of freer international trade, we also know that such trade should be on a truly reciprocal basis, with adequate protection for essential domestic industries.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Our final section is perhaps the most important of all. We look to research and development to assure the future in coal, just as America must look to it for the continued prosperity and security of our Republic.

The real frontier to be explored today is the border of science, the effort to push ahead to new scientific breakthroughs. Only in this way will further significant material and social progress be possible for all Americans.

Any discussion of research and development inevitably leads one to probe the role of the Federal Government. This is so because of the dominant position occupied by the Federal Establishment in research and development activity. For example, almost \$17 billion is budgeted for this purpose in the Presidential budget for fiscal year 1969.

This money and the scientific know-how which it commands can and should have deep significance for all Americans. Its proper use should permit our Nation to move ahead to solutions to some of our pressing problems and to permit a fuller maximization of our human and material resources.

But, instead, such full benefit is not accruing because in our opinion:

1. Most of the research effort is expended in three major fields—space, defense, and atomic energy.
2. Little overall coordination is being done to permit a rational view of the entire spectrum of research work.
3. Priorities dealing with the best possible alternative among a great many desirable courses have not been drawn up.

The validity of our contention is quite evident in the energy industry. For decades atomic energy has received the bulk of research attention, while coal, our most plentiful energy resource, has received a pitiful portion. This is not to infer that those charged with coal research in Government have not done all that could be expected of them. Rather, the resources committed to coal research have been infinitesimal compared with the potential benefit of such research.

Coal, as is well known, is a storehouse of chemical products, liquid fuels, and energy. From coal can come many of the products necessary