source for the basic figures that are involved. We do a basic recasting of those.

Sam, am I saying that properly?

Mr. COHN. I think, just so we understand each other, Mr. Reuss, I ought to define "gold budget" the way I mean it, and the way we use the term in the Bureau of the Budget. The gold budget is the budget that describes the impact of the Federal Government's transactions abroad, its spending abroad, and the receipts it obtains from abroad. In that sense we in the Bureau of the Budget do a gold budget.

Prior to the time the Director and the President focuses on the annual budget, we run through the agency proposals in terms of what their impact would be on our balance of payments, just the Federal sector apart from all others. This is then woven into a much broader picture on the balance of payments and possible demand on gold. That broader survey is conducted, as Mr. Mayo said, by the Troika and the Quadriad, and involves the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Agriculture, and others involved in balance-of-payments problems.

Representative REUSS. Couldn't this possibly be a case of what is everybody's business is nobody's business? I don't find anyone projecting our balance-of-payments situation for the coming year. Who is supposed to do this? You have had to get out, and your predecessors have had to get out, a very sharp pencil indeed on the domestic budget receipts and expenditures, as you have done this morning. Who does it with respect to our foreign position?

For example, we had hearings last month at which the Pentagon casually admitted that they were roughly 100-percent wrong on their predictions of the cost of our foreign military involvement, that instead of the $4½ billion figure that they have been putting down, it was closer to double that. But this all seemed very casual. And I wonder where in our Government responsibility is lodged for projecting our balance-of-payments position and deciding how we are going to manage it.

Mr. MAYO. I would say, first of all, the type of estimate that we are talking about here is more in the nature of an economic estimate than it is of a more precise budget estimate that has a basic accounting structure beneath it. Even the actuals are in some sense estimated. As you know, you have a great big discrepancy every year in this, because we are not quite that smart, even on the actuals on the whole balance-of-payments picture.

I say this merely to illustrate the point that the data we are talking about are economic forecasts, and the Federal Government is somewhat cautious about putting out official forecasts. True, the Government does put out projections of gross national product and corporate profits. You will not find, I believe, official administration estimates of pinpointed figures on unemployment, prices, or a great many of the other economic indicators involved. I submit that on balance of payments some of these same characteristics obtain.

But to come back to the responsibility angle, I would say that the basic responsibility for keeping on top of the balance-of-payments situation—and there certainly are estimates being made all of the time in a rough order of magnitude to help keep on top of this situation—falls, I would say, primarily on the Secretary of the Treasury. There are other parts of this that do affect the Department of Commerce. But if