

UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA

By W. A. BOYLE, PRESIDENT

We appreciate the opportunity to present the views of the United Mine Workers of America on the state of the U.S. economy.

We believe that the objective of governmental policy in the economic sector should be the fullest development of the human and material resources of the United States. This development should be carried on within the framework of our social and political institutions and should reflect the dedication of our Nation to the cause of human dignity and justice.

President Johnson, in his economic message this year, stated the objective of governmental policy very well when he said:

"I regard achievement of the full potential of our resources—physical, human, and otherwise—to be the highest purpose of governmental policies next to the protection of those rights we regard as inalienable."

We share these views. Our remarks are aimed at helping to create policies which will further their implementation.

We would like to comment in this paper upon three areas which are in need of governmental action in order to insure the fullest development of our human and material resources. There areas are:

- (a) Research and development.
- (b) Import programs.
- (c) A national energy policy.

Research and development is perhaps the single most effective means to achieve national economic growth. Unfortunately, in our view the current status of research and development is such that it does not contribute all that it could to such progress.

When considering the efforts made by the Government in the field of research, we should not confine ourselves only to dollars. It may be argued that we have an almost unlimited fund of dollars. But, it is obvious to even the most uninformed that we do not have an unlimited number of men of science. Thus, when we commit a part of that human resources to one project, we forgo its application in other areas where such talent might be used to better advantage.

As it now stands, the bulk of the money for energy research is being spent in the atomic energy field. For the fiscal year 1970 the Atomic Energy Commission has budgeted more than \$700 million to this area. This compares with the total request for the Office of Coal Research of \$13,300,000.

The discrepancy is obvious. It is all the more apparent when we consider that the Atomic Energy Commission has spent more than \$3 billion to develop the civilian atom since 1946 and that the Federal Government has granted to the atom privileges accorded to no other agency of government in our history.

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