

There are many arguments that can be made against the disproportionate share of research resources going to atomic power. There are many arguments that can be advanced that coal is being short-changed. In the final analysis, however, coal research should be expanded because coal research holds the brightest promise of future benefits to the American people, benefits that can be measured in terms of economic progress and human welfare. Consider some of the following facts:

(a) Coal is the most abundant energy resource available within the continental United States. It is estimated that coal reserves form more than 80 percent of our total energy resources.

(b) Coal is well situated geographically with reserves located throughout most of the United States. Coal is mined in 26 of our States.

(c) Coal mining is a well-known and highly efficient technology.

(d) Coal miners are the most productive workers in the world.

(e) Coal is the mainstay of the American industrial economy, fueling more than 50 percent of the electric generation in the United States. It is also vital to the manufacture of steel and is an important contributor to the making of cement and many other industrial products.

(f) Coal is the "mother" fuel and as such is capable of producing most of the hydrocarbons upon which America depends.

(g) Coal, in its production, transportation and consumption, is one of the major American industries and contributes directly and indirectly several billion dollars to the U.S. economy each year.

To say that coal is important is to state the obvious. It is apparent that coal will be needed for many decades and even centuries to come. From this it is easy to reach the conclusion that the Federal Government would be wise to provide for an adequate coal research program. With coal research the following results can be accomplished:

(a) The efficiency of electric generation can be increased to a significant degree, with the resultant economy in fuel utilization, a lowering of thermal pollution and a wiser utilization of our national energy resources.

(b) Many of the problems of environmental pollution incident to the burning of coal would be reduced and eventually eliminated.

(c) The conversion of coal to liquid and gaseous fuel would be made a reality with a fuller development of our coal resources and an increase in industrial activity in coal mining areas.

(d) America could once again become self-sufficient in energy. In short, we are suggesting that the application of research dollars to coal would be beneficial to the economy and would foster economic progress out of all proportion to the actual money expended.

Finally, research in the fields of coal mine health and safety is vital to the national effort to reduce death and disease among our Nation's miners. For too long research in this area has been given short shrift by the Government. But, it is now obvious that unless new methods are developed to permit a safe and healthy environment in our Nation's coal mines, America will refuse to accept the cost in human lives that is now a tragic part of coal mining.

Over the past several years the American coal industry and many others have staggered under the burden of unfair foreign competition. At the same time, American industry has been prevented from enter-