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5PM - Science Adviser Meeting
Cannon, Lynn , Stever
Parsons, Schleede

Thursday, June 5

Draft/6/3/75

Presidential Transmittal Letter

I am transmitting herewith a draft of legislation to create an office of Science and Technology Policy to assist the President in this critical area of public policy.

The Director of the Office would assist me as required in any area where scientific or technological aspects need to be assessed. The major emphasis will be on assuring that the Nation's scientific and technological capabilities are effectively marshalled to serve social, economic and national security needs. The Office will also evaluate the Government's programs to assure the maintenance of a strong base of scientific and technological capabilities.

The Director and the Deputy Director would be appointed by the President, ~~subject to the advice and consent of the Senate and consequently would be accessible to the Congress~~) The Office would have a small, expert staff and would tap into the Nation's scientific and engineering resources for advice and assistance.

The legislation is designed to permit needed flexibility for the Presidency in responding to the dynamic changes occurring in science and technology which affect national affairs.



6/3/75

D R A F T

THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

PRESIDENTIAL SCIENCE ADVICE

The President is today transmitting to the Congress proposed legislation to reestablish a science advisory organization in the Executive Office of the President. The proposed office, to be named the Office of Science and Technology Policy, will be headed by a single Director, assisted by a deputy and will have a ~~professional~~ staff of ~~approximately~~ ^{up to 15} ~~ten~~. The Director will also serve as Science and Technology Adviser to the President.

The President made known his decision to establish the new office after meeting on May 22, 1975 with Congressional leaders including Senator Moss and Congressman Teague. It was also indicated, at that time, that the President wanted the new office based in statute and that legislation to create it would be forwarded shortly to the Congress.

Functions and Authorities of the Director of the Office

In addition to serving as the Administration's chief policy adviser and spokesman with respect to scientific matters, the functions of the Director, as specified in the proposed legislation, include:

- (1) Identifying ways in which scientific and technological knowledge can improve decision-making in the



government.

- (2) Analyzing the scientific and technological aspects of major national policy problems or issues and examining their implication on policy alternatives.
- (3) Reviewing and providing independent analyses of the adequacy and appropriateness of major Federal R&D programs and plans in meeting long-term National goals.
- (4) Providing coordination for the Executive Branch, as appropriate, with respect to R&D activities of an interagency nature.
- (5) Advising the President, and other officials, in the Executive Office, of new discoveries or breakthroughs in science and technology that may have impact on National policies or Federal programs.

In performing his duties, the Science Adviser and his staff will work closely with Executive Office organizations involved in the review of military as well as civilian R&D programs including the National Security Council, the Domestic Council, and the Office of Management and Budget.

Resources Available to the New Office

In addition to drawing upon his own staff resources, the Director of the Office can make use of the extensive resources

- in the academic, industrial and private research community to obtain expert advice, on an ad hoc basis, on scientific and technological



- matters of national interest; and
- in Federal departments and agencies. In this regard, He will use the Federal Council for Science and Technology, the chairmanship of which will be transferred to him by the President.

The proposed legislation provides an initial authorization for FY 1976 of \$1⁵/_X million for operation of the new office.

Background on Presidential Science Advice

- . Science Advice in the White House dates back to 1957 when President Eisenhower created the post of Special Assistant for Science and Technology and reconstituted the President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC) in the White House.
- . The position and the office were formalized by President Kennedy through Reorganization Policy No. 2 in 1962 with the creation of the Office of Science and Technology in the Executive Office of the President. Also created at that time was the President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC).
- . Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1973, effective July 1, 1973, transferred the functions of the Office of Science and Technology to the Director of the National Science Foundation who was designated Science Adviser by



President Nixon. About this time, the PSAC was also abolished and the chairmanship of the Federal Council for Science and Technology transferred to the Director of the Foundation.

- On May 22, 1975, President Ford made known his decision to reestablish a science advisory organization in the Executive Office of the President. This followed a study and subsequent recommendation by the Vice-President.



A BILL

To strengthen staff capabilities for providing advice and assistance to the President with respect to scientific and technological considerations in the development and oversight of national policies and programs.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "National Science and Technology Organization Act of 1975".

Statement of Findings and Declaration of Policy

The Congress hereby finds and declares--

(1) that the general welfare, the economic growth and stability of the Nation and its security, the efficient utilization and conservation of the Nation's resources, and the promotion of the progress of science and useful arts, upon which the very functioning of government and society depend, require the vigorous and perceptive employment of national science and technology; and

(2) that the complexity and magnitude of scientific and technological factors impinging on the course of national and international events requires that provision be made to incorporate scientific and technological knowledge, selectively, into the national decisionmaking process; and therefore

(3) that the President's staff capabilities need to be strengthened for providing policy advice and oversight of the Executive Branch on matters affecting science and technology.

TITLE I

Office of Science and Technology Policy

Section 101. Office of Science and Technology Policy. There is hereby established in the Executive Office of the President the Office of Science and Technology Policy, hereafter in this Part referred to as the Office.

Sec. 102. Director and deputy. There shall be at the head of the Office a Director who shall be appointed by the President ~~by and with the advice and consent of the Senate~~ and shall be compensated at the rate provided for Level II of the Executive Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5313). There shall also be in the Office a Deputy Director, who shall be appointed by the President ~~by and with the advice and consent of the Senate~~ and shall be compensated at the rate provided for Level IV of the Executive Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5315). The Deputy Director shall perform such functions as the Director may from time to time prescribe and shall act as Director during the absence or disability of the Director or in the event of vacancy in the Office of Director.



Sec. 103. Functions of the Director. The Director shall be the Administration's chief policy advisor and spokesman with respect to scientific and technological matters. He shall advise and assist the President as the President may require including:

(1) Identifying ways in which scientific and technological knowledge can improve decision-making³ in the government.

(2) Analyzing the scientific and technological aspects of major national policy problems or issues and examining their implication on policy alternatives.

(3) Reviewing and providing independent analyses of the adequacy and appropriateness of major Federal R&D programs and plans in meeting long-term National goals.

(4) Providing coordination for the Executive Branch, as appropriate, with respect to R&D activities of an interagency nature.

(5) Advising the President, and other officials in the Executive Office, of new discoveries or breakthroughs in science and technology that may have impact on National policies or Federal programs.

(6) *and such other, etc*
 Sec. 104. Personnel. The Director is authorized, without regard to civil service and classification laws, to employ and fix the compensation of such officers and employees as are necessary to perform the functions, now or hereafter vested in him and to prescribe their duties.



Sec. 105. Consultant services. The Director may obtain services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5 of the United States Code, at rates not to exceed the rate prescribed for grade GS-18 of the General Schedule by section 5332 of title 5 of the United States Code.

Sec. 106. Advisory Committees. The Director may appoint, without regard to the civil service laws and in conformity with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (86 Stat. 770), such panels and advisory committees as shall be appropriate to his functions, and to compensate the members in accordance with the provisions contained in section 7 of such Act and regulations promulgated thereunder.

Sec. 107. Contracts. The Director is authorized to enter into contracts and agreements for studies with public agencies and private organizations and persons; make such payments (in lump sum or installments, and in advance or by way of reimbursement, and with necessary adjustments on account of overpayments and underpayments); and generally take such steps as he may deem to be necessary or appropriate to perform functions now or hereafter vested in him.

Sec. 108. Authorization. There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1976 and each year thereafter an amount not to exceed \$1,⁵~~9~~00,000 to carry out the purposes



of this Act.

TITLE II

National Science Foundation

Sec. 201. Abolishment. Those functions transferred to the Director of the National Science Foundation by Sec. 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1973 are hereby abolished.

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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am forwarding to the Congress today proposed legislation to create an Office of Science and Technology Policy to provide direct staff assistance to the President in matters related to scientific research and technology development.

Several months ago, I asked Vice-President Rockefeller to reexamine the question of whether a science advisory organization in the White House would strengthen the Presidential staff advisory mechanism. He has concluded that such an office could indeed be effective and has recommended creation of an Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President, headed by a Director who would also serve as my Science and Technology Adviser. I concur with the Vice-President's recommendation and I have determined that it is appropriate that this new office be based in statute. My proposed legislation provides the essential functions and authorities for the new office while maintaining needed flexibility.

Science and technology are key factors in the continued growth and security of this Nation. It is a crucial element, for example, in the achievement of our long-term energy independence as it is in many other areas

of national concern. Because it is such an important element of many activities and policies of the Federal Government, I have determined that I would be best served in my responsibilities as President by having a full-time adviser, supported by a small staff in the Executive Office.

The Science and Technology Adviser would assist by providing advice to me and my top advisers in policy areas where scientific or technological questions are involved. He would endeavor to assure that the Nation's scientific and technological capabilities are effectively utilized to serve our Nation's social, economic and national security needs. He would identify new opportunities in science and technology to improve our understanding of national problems and their solution.

As the senior official in the United States Government in science and technology, he will represent the United States in international meetings on science and technology. As the need arises, he will be the spokesman for the government as a whole on scientific and technological matters. He will chair the Federal Council on Science and Technology, and I expect him to participate in the review of federal agency programs and budgets as they apply to research and development

activities.

The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and his Deputy would be appointed by the President, ~~subject to the advice and consent of the Senate, and, consequently, would be accessible to the Congress.~~ The Office would draw extensively on the Nation's scientific and engineering community for advice and assistance.

While creation of a Science and Technology Policy Office in the Executive Office of the President would relieve a burden on the Director of NSF, the Foundation's analytic and policy analyses capabilities would continue to be drawn upon by this new office in carrying forward its important responsibilities.

I believe that this new mechanism for providing the President ready access to scientific and technological advice will improve the effectiveness of the White House staff advisory system and decision-making where science and technology issues are significant.

I urge the Congress to give this new proposed legislation its early and fullest consideration.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

- Q. Why did the President decide to establish a separate Science Adviser's Office rather than continue the current arrangement in which the Director of the National Science Foundation also serves as Science Adviser?
- A. The President has determined that both the responsibilities of the NSF Director and the responsibilities of the Science Adviser are both full-time jobs and require full-time attention.
- Q. Who will the Science Adviser advise?
- A. The President and his senior advisers in the White House. In addition, the Science Adviser and his staff will work closely with and provide R&D advice to other components of the Executive Office including the Domestic Council, the National Security Council and OMB.
- Q. What will be the role of the Science Adviser in reviewing military R&D programs including major weapons systems programs?
- A. The Science Adviser and his staff will work closely with existing Executive Office organizations involved in the review of military programs, particularly the National Security Council.

Q. Will the Science Adviser be a member of the National Security Council?

A. Under current statute, membership of the NSC is limited to the President, the Vice-President and the Secretaries of State and Defense. It is not intended that the Science Adviser be added as a member. Since the focus of NSC is generally on foreign policy issues that do not relate to ~~R&D~~^{S&T}, it is neither necessary nor appropriate that the Science Adviser become a full member of the Council. He will participate in NSC deliberations on policy issues where ~~R&D~~^{S&T} is a significant consideration.

Q. What will be the relationship between the new Office of Science and Technology Policy and the NSF?

A. The NSF will continue to support a broad range of science policy studies and will work very closely with the new Office to support its functions.

Q. What are the initial assignments for the new Office of Science and Technology Policy?

A. There are a wide-range of questions before the President that benefit from informed scientific and technological advice. ~~These range from the energy research and development program and environmental questions such as automotive emission standards to the development of policies that will stimulate industrial and private sector investment in R&D. Many of these questions are currently under review and when the new mechanism is established, the Science Adviser will continue the~~



~~work that is already started~~ as well as taking on new issues.

Q. Will the Director of the Science and Technology Policy Office also be a part of the White House Staff?

A. Yes, the Director will also serve as Science and Technology Advisor to the President.

Q. Where will the new Office be located physically?

A. *In the White House complex*
~~Space for the new office have not yet been assigned,~~

Q. Will the Science Adviser have other responsibilities besides providing advice?

A. Although he will have no direct responsibility for the operation of R&D programs vested in the mission agencies, he will exercise a coordinating role among Federal programs and agencies, and will, for example, chair the Federal Council for Science and Technology. He will also act as the President's spokesman on ~~R&D~~ *STO* policy.

Q. Will the Science Adviser issue an annual report?

A. Issuing a separate annual report would be at the expense of important advisory activities to the President.

There are already agency and interagency reports on aspects of Federal science activities. There is also Special Analysis on R&D which is part of the Budget Special Analyses. The Science Adviser and his staff would assist both in reviewing these agency and interagency reports and also in preparing the Special Analysis.



- Q. Why not establish a three-man Science and Technology council?
- A. The President prefers a single adviser to a council. Again, it is a question of establishing an advisory mechanism that will be most responsive to Presidential needs and preferences.
- Q. Will the proceedings of ad hoc committees and panels established by the Science Adviser be open to the public under the Freedom of Information Act?
- A. Yes, in those situations to which the Freedom of Information Act applies. The Act does not preclude maintaining the confidentiality of advice and consultation in defined situations such as national security.
- Q. Will there be a new Science Advisory Committee to the President, a new PSAC?
- A. No. At this time there is no plan to appoint a standing advisory committee. However, it is expected that extensive use will be made of ad hoc advisory groups with members taken from the science and engineering communities. Furthermore, the National Science Board will continue to function as an advisory body with respect to the status of science and science education. It is expected the Science Adviser will also call upon the NAS and the NAE for assistance in reviewing certain issues.
- Q. What will be the size of the Office of Science and Technology Policy?

- A. The Office is intended to be a small, but highly qualified staff, capable of covering the full range of major science and technology issues. This will require a staff of ~~approximately 10~~^{UP TO 15} professionals and appropriate support personnel. A staff with high professional qualifications is desired, with experience in industry, academia and government.
- Q. What responsibility will the Office have with respect to agency R&D budgets?
- A. The Office will be expected to participate in the review of agency R&D programs and budgets and will work with the OMB in support of the annual budget process.
- Q. What will become of NSF's policy planning function and its policy planning staff?
- A. To carry out its central responsibilities in the support of science, NSF will continue to need a strong staff in R&D policy analysis. This staff will also be available to assist the Science Adviser. The longer-term impact of the new Office of Science and Technology Policy on the current activities of the Foundation will need to be worked out as the functions of the new office develop.

