

GENERAL SCIENCE

Science Budget Decreased

► THE SCIENCE ORIENTATION of President Lyndon B. Johnson's administration highlights the proposed \$112.8 billion Federal budget for fiscal year 1967.

From health and education programs, slated for a \$1.4 billion increase, to space exploration and high-speed surface travel, matters directly or indirectly related to technological and scientific development are scheduled to receive a heavy share of the tax dollar.

The total, however, will be slightly lower than in fiscal year 1965, down from \$10.5 billion to \$10.2 billion.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's programs are cut by \$300 million to a total of \$3.5 billion, mainly because they are most expensive during their development phases. Since the Gemini project is now in its late stages, most of its bills have been paid. The Apollo moon-landing program has yet to get off the ground, however, and most of its bills are still to come.

Many of the key programs between Gem-

ini and the actual moon landing—among them the Surveyor soft-landing robots and the Lunar Orbiters—are just about due for the biggest financial bite they will ever get.

The Atomic Energy Commission is due to take a slight cut—\$37 million—making its total from the tax pie \$2.3 billion, of which \$876 million is for research and development. Of special importance are AEC's plans to increase the intensity of the world's highest energy proton accelerator at Brookhaven National Laboratory and to build a "meson factory" at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory.

Design funds for the hotly contested atom smasher achieving 200 billion electron volts will be requested after a site has been selected, and the design authorized.

The medical and health-related activities of the Government will amount to \$10.3 billion in fiscal year 1967, about a third of which will come from trust funds. This spending will finance a wide variety of activities.

• Science News Letter, 89:84 February 5, 1966

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More Inventive America

Excerpts of remarks by Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey upon the occasion of the visit of the National Inventors Council, Jan. 21

► I AM VERY PLEASED to have the honor of greeting the members of the newly reorganized National Inventors Council.

I understand that this is the first time that an incumbent in my position has met with the Council. My visit with you today, however brief, does demonstrate that, at the highest echelons of our United States Government, on behalf of the President, there is a deep and continuing interest in your success in fostering creativity in inventions.

The National Inventors Council was started in 1940. As a U. S. Senator, I came in contact with it early during my service. My goal then, like the Council's, was to foster the flow of inventions which might prove valuable to national defense.

Now, I am pleased to note your broadened mission:—To encourage the finest national climate for the inventive process, including dealing with broad problems faced by so many inventors.

This nation needs inventive genius more than ever before in our history. We need it for our safety and for the security of the Free World. We need it for the growth of our civilian economy and for the development of new and better goods and services, so as to satisfy needs, generate jobs. We need it for our Space program, a fact with which I am particularly familiar as Chairman of the National Aeronautics and Space Council. We need genius, too, in medical engineering, for detection, diagnosis, therapy of dis-

ease. And we need genius in many other realms.

The history of science and technology demonstrates what a single inventive genius or a single creative team can do. He or it can literally alter the course of history—as to industry, agriculture, or, yes, warfare.

In this room are many men—whose works truly have demonstrated genius. I salute your achievements.

We need more Americans like you. We can't insert a want-ad—"WANTED MORE GENIUSES." Nature and nurture, heredity and environment, work in ways we do not fully understand in developing great minds. But we do know that there must be better and easier ways to identify superior talent, stimulate it, inspire it, free it from limitations.

I am hopeful that, out of your work, our rate of inventions, especially significant inventions, can be increased and accelerated.

May I add that I hope our nation will foster more inventiveness by talented women, not just men. We should provide educational stimulus for young ladies studying science and engineering, so that they can achieve their highest potential, too.

Let us look at the national scene and discover whatever obstacles lie in the way, whether they be restrictive laws or any other factor. And let us seek to overcome these obstacles.

Your Government is grateful for your taking time out from your busy professional and business careers to share with us your experience and your ideas.

Let us go forward for a still more inventive America.

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