
APPENDIXES

Appendix A—Summary Report of Advisory Council Activities

Appendix B—Work in Progress

Appendix C—List of Published OTA Reports

Appendix D—List of Advisors and Panel Members

Appendix E—Technology Assessment Act of 1972

Summary Report of Advisory Council Activities

Frederick C. Robbins, *Chairman*

During this year, the Council spent considerable time discussing the quality of the product of OTA. In general, we were pleased with the quality of OTA's studies given the level of maturity and budget. Since the value of the Office to Congress depends on the objectivity and scientific accuracy of its work, we recommend that quality control receive the highest priority within the Office.

At the last meeting of the year, the Council proposed several recommendations for improving the service OTA offers the congressional community.

- We feel that "sole source" contracts should, in certain circumstances, be utilized since it appears that this process is the most expeditious and effective way to obtain a high quality of performance.
- We suggest that OTA might hold occasional colloquia with business, academic, and other institutional representatives in order to acquaint them with the vitality and originality of OTA's work.
- In recent years, the Council has lost some of its sense of involvement. It is felt that a more active relationship and frequent contact with the Technology Assessment Board might improve its effectiveness. We are looking forward to scheduling several joint Board/ Council meetings in the year ahead.

The Council wishes to express its confidence that the actions the new Director, John H. Gibbons, has taken and the procedures he has implemented to improve the management of the Office clearly reflect sound management practices.

Dr. Gibbons has also been effectively coordinating the work of the Office with the General Accounting Office (GAO), the Congressional Research Service (CRS), and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). We believe that overlap is minimal, and that what overlap does occur is probably defensible. These efforts by the Director should not be allowed to lapse. This coordination does appear to be enhanced by the presence of Gilbert Gude, Director of CRS and Elmer Staats, Director of GAO on the Council, and we believe it would be further benefited by the presence of Alice Rivlin, Director of CBO.

OTA has been a bold experiment, attempting to provide Congress with future-oriented analyses employing the best scientific and technical expertise in the country. The Council finds that the Office, in its ability to assess the long-term impacts of technologies and their real and potential threats to the social fabric, offers an indispensable and unique resource for the U.S. Congress. The mission of OTA is important and it deserves our vigorous support.