

s t a t e m e n t
of the TAAC chairman—James C. Hunt

As a member of the Technology Assessment Advisory Council for the past eight years and as Chair of the Council this last year, I had the opportunity to learn about and review each of OTA's research and assessment programs. In addition, I served on OTA's project Advisory Panels, chairing one of them, and worked with OTA staff on two reports.

To me, OTA's well-hidden, most valuable resource was the diverse, experienced and motivated professional staff who had an amazing capacity, despite limited resources, to attract the best minds, expert in any given field, and to gain their enthusiastic participation in developing, for the Congress, reports that are broadly desired by a multitude of other agencies, institutions, and individuals.

Indeed, the broadly based relationship among OTA leadership and professional staff, industry and academic institutions and their people impressed on me the quality value that OTA's information and analysis provided the Congress. By working side-by-side with Advisory Panel Members, I grew to respect and appreciate the expertise and commitment of the OTA staff and their dedication to nonpartisan, accurate and evenhanded study and analysis. My fellow members of the Council and I did all that we could to make the case for OTA during the 1995 debate. It was gratifying to see that those very people most familiar with OTA's contributions not only recognized the importance of OTA, but also allocated time from very busy schedules to make the case for OTA's needed continued existence. I share the sense of loss and regret in the outcome. The Congress and the public will miss an impartial, omnipresent arbiter of technology applications. My eight year association with the people of OTA provided a wonderfully instructive, enjoyable life experience—an experience that means a lot to me,

one that I will always treasure. OTA made a difference for thoughtful legislative policy that will be difficult to replace. Indeed, it seems to me that the challenge to the Congressional leadership is to develop an even better approach and a more superior mechanism for technology assessment. For their steady hand on the tiller at OTA, the Congress and the public at large owe Roger Herdman and Jack Gibbons a debt of gratitude.