

Wide Technological Drive Planned by Administration

By RICHARD WITKIN

Administration sources gave details yesterday of some of the several dozen specific research projects included in the program that President Nixon announced he would soon send to Congress for using technology "to improve our everyday lives." The projects include:

Development of an automated high-capacity transit system using four- to six-passenger vehicles that would travel on special guideways and provide fast, nonstop transportation from starting point to destination.

Radical improvement of fire-fighting systems, with emphasis on use of helicopters, advanced protective clothing and masks, and automatic extinguishing systems. The aim would be an annual saving of 6,000 lives and \$2-billion in property damage by the year 1980.

Development and demonstration of an electronic mail system that would provide routine overnight delivery of letters from station to station and priority delivery in just one hour.

Creation of five demonstration units—integrating special hospital facilities, fast ambu-

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lances, new communications nets and highly trained personnel — to provide emergency medical service for five areas. Each demonstration unit would serve about 500,000 persons.

President Nixon said the proposals, taken together, would mean an increase of \$700-million in civilian research and development spending in the next fiscal year, 15 per cent more than the current level.

The fiscal requests for the projects would be scattered through the budgets of numerous Government agencies, and all would be subject to the normal Congressional approval.

In addition to the strictly civilian projects, the Administration plans to increase budget requests for several military programs that it contends will bring long-term nonmilitary benefits. These programs include:

Stepped-up work on a short takeoff and landing (STOL) jet plane that is expected to have its first flight late next year.

Initiation of development of a new 20,000-pound-thrust turbo-fan engine for the STOL plane. The engine would use the most advanced technology, particularly to minimize noise. It would be ready for initial flights, replacing existing engines on the STOL prototype, about 1976.

Acceleration of work on heavy-lift helicopters, often called flying cranes, that could eventually be used in the construction and logging industries.

Development of an improved logistic plane to carry personnel and supplies from shore to carrier decks. The plane might eventually be adapted for use by local-service airlines in rural areas. It might seat about 30 passengers.

Stepped-up work on a micro-wave all-weather aircraft landing system that would be used by both military and civilian craft by the late seventies.

President Nixon's announcement that he would soon send

Congress a special message on research and development was a highlight of his State of the Union Message yesterday.

As his message emphasized, the program is the outgrowth of an intensive four-month canvass and study conducted under direction of the White House's Domestic Council, whose executive director is John D. Erlichman.

Among the high-level personnel who also played important parts in the deliberations were: George P. Shultz, director of the Office of Management and Budget; Edward E. David, the President's science adviser and head of the Office of Science and Technology; Peter G. Peterson, executive director of the Council on International Economic Policy; William T. Magruder, a special assistant to the President; and Dr. Lawrence A. Goldmuntz, executive director of the inter-agency Federal Council for Science and Technology.

Scores of consultants outside the Government were called on for their views. And countless proposals are still in the hopper waiting to be analyzed more

Nixon Pledges a Drive For Women's Rights

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20 (UPI)—President Nixon asked Congress today to broaden the jurisdiction of the Civil Rights Commission to deal with discrimination against women.

"While every woman may not want a career outside the home, every woman should have the freedom to choose whatever career she wishes—and an equal chance to pursue it," he said in the written portion of his State of the Union report.

"This Administration will also continue its strong efforts to open equal opportunities for women, recognizing clearly that women are not offered such opportunities today," he said.

thoroughly for possible inclusion in later installments of what is envisaged as an open-ended Government effort to foster research.

Many of the projects that will be included in the President's special message to Congress have been talked about in the technical community for some time but have not had Government budgetary support. Others have had some budget support.

But the White House survey of New Technology Opportunities, as it was commonly referred to, has impelled those pulling the program together to recommend acceleration of the efforts.

The technology program is viewed as having two main aims: to apply advanced technology, concentrated up to now in the space and defense fields, to solving urgent domestic social problems; and to improve the nation's deteriorating competitive position in world markets.

One of the areas the President mentioned for stepped-up research was the program to create "new sources of clean and abundant energy."

Informants disclosed some of the specific energy technologies for which budget funds would be requested.

One would expand present programs for perfecting a pollution-free, high-efficiency electric-power system. It would be based on the principle of passing a conductive gas through a magnetic field. Another program calls for building an advanced system for gasifying coal and cleaning it with a high-temperature system.

In the field of protection against disasters, the White House study approved projects for accelerating design of damage-resistant structures and improving earthquake forecasting.

Sources close to the technology program stressed that the list of several dozen projects should by no means be considered exhaustive, indicating that it represents only the beginning of a continuing effort.

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