

Nixon Budget Highlights

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 24—Following are highlights of President Nixon's new budget:

MILITARY—For the second year in a row, the President wants more money for the military, \$6.3-billion more than he asked for last year. He wants the money to buy new missile submarines, to lure men to an all-volunteer Army and to acquire modern ships, planes and tanks that were not bought during the Vietnam war. Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird calls the \$83.4-billion total "the absolute minimum to safeguard our national security."

SPACE—The Administration would like to spend twice as much on the space shuttle as had been indicated. The shuttle is a vehicle that takes off like a rocket, lands like an airplane and can be re-used as many as 100 times. The amount the White House previously talked about, was \$5.5-billion, but critics have contended that the real figure was \$10-billion to \$14-billion. The higher figure has now been confirmed.

TRANSPORTATION—The budget contains the first White House endorsement of a plan to "deregulate" freight transportation. The plan, which would ease Government controls and thereby stimulate price competition among railroads and truckers, would afford consumers an estimated saving of \$1-billion a year. Industry opposes the plan because it would cut its billings by \$1-billion and disrupt the share of freight for trucks, barges and railroads.

ENVIRONMENT—Budget requests for environmental programs are almost exactly the same as last year's. This is regarded as almost certain to produce Congressional additions and White House refusals to spend more.

HOUSING—The Administration has decided to reduce its commitments to subsidized apartments from \$200-million to \$150-million. These projects have encountered many problems, including bad construction and financial instability. All other subsidized housing programs are budgeted at about the same level.

HUMAN RESOURCES—Proposed spending for social needs will go up next year, in some cases dramatically. But the increases mainly reflect legislation already proposed or passed; the new budget foresees little in the way of major social initiatives. For example, a \$1-billion increase for the poor is almost all accounted for by changes or proposed changes in Social Security and food stamp benefits.

EDUCATION—The Administration deliberately withheld from the budget an item much desired by colleges: general-purpose grants to institutions of higher education. It did this to pressure Congress into passing a bill that would distribute such grants on the basis of the number of students receiving Federal aid, not of total students.

RESEARCH—The budget for research is \$1.4-billion more than last year's. But some critics say that the funds proposed for the National Institutes of Health have reinforced their fears that much-publicized increases in money for research in cancer and heart disease are being made at the expense of other programs. The allocation to build facilities to train health professionals is down more than \$140-million.

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