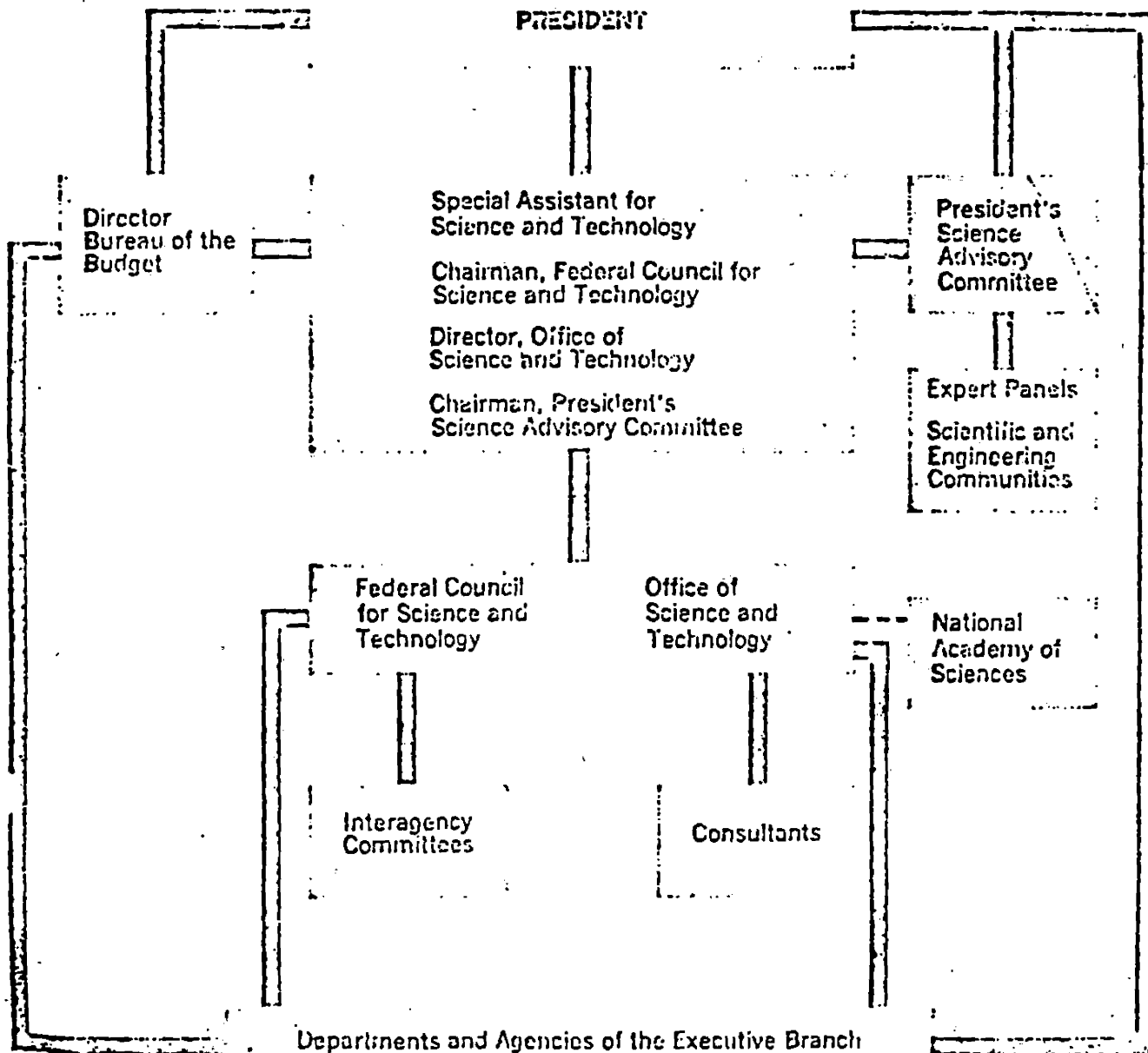


White House Science Structure



History, Purpose and Structure

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The founding of the Office of Science and Technology (OST) was the last of several steps contributing to the present science advisory structure in the Executive Office of the President. Prior to 1957, the only formal scientific body at this level was a science advisory committee located within the Office of Defense Mobilization (which has since become the Office of Emergency Planning). Shortly after the Soviets launched the first man-made satellite, President Eisenhower created the position of Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology (known informally as the President's Science Advisor) and made him Chairman of the President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC) which was separated from ODM.

In 1959, the Federal Council for Science and Technology (FCST) was created by Executive Order of the President and the Science Advisor was appointed Chairman. FCST is composed of policy-making representatives from the various Federal agencies involved in science and technology; the purpose of the Council is to coordinate the total Federal effort in science and technology to insure its efficiency and effectiveness.

PSAC, on the other hand, is composed of 18 of the Nation's most distinguished scientists and engineers drawn together from outside the Government -- from universities and from industry. The members are appointed by the President for four-year terms. The full Committee, which meets two days a month, plays an essential role in blending and integrating governmental and non-governmental views with respect to major issues which involve both science and government and which bear on the total scientific and technological posture of this country. In addition, its members chair numerous panels designed to study particular issues in depth.

The Office of Science and Technology was created by Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1962 to provide a permanent staff to: 1) advise and assist the President on all matters of national policy affected by or pertaining to science and technology; and 2) evaluate and coordinate the total Federal program in science and technology. The Director of OST, who continues to serve as the President's Science Advisor, was charged with advising and assisting the President with respect to the following:

1) Major policies, plans and programs of science and technology of the various agencies of the Federal Government, giving appropriate emphasis to the relationship of science and technology to national security and foreign policy, and measures for furthering science and technology in the Nation.

2) Assessment of selected scientific and technical developments and programs in relation to their impact on national policies.

3) Review, integration, and coordination of major Federal activities in science and technology, giving due consideration to the effects of such activities on non-Federal resources and institutions.

4) Assuring that good and close relations exist with the Nation's scientific and engineering communities so as to further in every appropriate way their participation in strengthening science and technology in the United States and the Free World.

5) Such other matters consonant with law as may be assigned by the President to the Office.

The Director of OST has a Deputy, also appointed by the President, and a staff of approximately 20 professionals at the top levels of the Civil Service. Two of these men serve as Executive Secretaries of PSAC and FCST, and others serve as technical assistants to the Director and have responsibilities in the general areas listed below. They work closely both with outside consultants to PSAC and with interagency panels of the Federal Council.

Topics which particularly concerned this Office in 1966 include the following:

National Security: Anti-submarine warfare and associated problems, military aircraft, strategic military systems.

Space: The national space program and its future.

Civil Programs: Government patent policy; rapid excavating technology; the potential role of research in the Department of Housing and Urban Development; problems in education, particularly higher education.

Coordination of Federal Programs: Water resources research, atmospheric sciences and oceanography, and interrelating the programs in all of the environmental sciences.

In addition, the President gave his Science Advisor a number of public assignments:

Aircraft Noise: Chairmanship of a special interagency working group to define a program leading to the alleviation of jet aircraft noise; chairmanship of the Federal Coordinating Committee on Sonic Boom Studies.

Technological Gap: Chairmanship of an interagency committee to examine the problems raised by the technological disparities between the U. S. and Western European countries; participation in a study of this problem under the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Presidential Commissions: Involvement in the work of the President's Commission on Patent System and the President's Crime Commission.

World Food: A major effort has been mounted in response to the President's directive to his Science Advisory Committee to search out new ways to develop synthetic dietary supplements, improve the quality of nutritional content of food crops and to apply technology to increasing food production. In his India Food Message, the President stated that he looks to this study "to supply further and more definitive guidelines for near-term action and for long-term planning."

Attached is an organization chart portraying the White House science structure.

Attachment