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BRIEFING BOOK

Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974

"to reduce losses of life and property  
through better fire prevention and control,  
and for other purposes"

- October 29, 1974 Signed by President Ford
- October 10, 1974 Passed by Senate  
(unanimous voice vote)
- October 9, 1974 Passed by House (381 to 3)



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## Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

## STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am today signing into law S. 1769, the "Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974."

While fire prevention and control is and will remain a State and local responsibility, I believe the Federal Government can make useful contributions. I endorse the intention of this act to supplement rather than supplant existing State and local government activities.

The program established by this act, which will be implemented by an agency within the Department of Commerce, will contribute to our knowledge of fire, and our ability to prevent it.

Federal assistance for research and development on fire problems will be consolidated and expanded to provide the scientific and technological base for the development of materials, equipment and systems to reduce the number and severity of fires.

The Fire Academy system will supplement existing education and training for fire prevention personnel across the Nation.

The research and development program will be closely tied to the education and training program, thereby insuring that research and development results are disseminated quickly to communities.

The data base of the National Fire Data Center will assist States and communities in setting priorities and in identifying possible solutions to problems. I will monitor the progress of the Nation in reducing fire losses.

The bill contains a provision that requires the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to establish 25 burn treatment centers, 90 burn programs and 25 centers for expanded research on burns. Since these centers would duplicate the burn research carried on through the trauma program of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences and would add 5 million to the FY 75 budget, I will not seek appropriations to implement this particular provision of the bill.



OCT 23 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill S. 1769 - Fire Prevention and Control  
Sponsors - Sen. Magnuson (D) Washington and  
20 others

Last Day for Action

October 29, 1974 - Tuesday

Purpose

To establish in the Department of Commerce a National Fire Prevention and Control Administration to coordinate, encourage, and facilitate programs in fire prevention and control.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget	Approval (Signing statement attached)
Department of the Treasury	Approval
Department of Commerce	Approval
Department of Housing and Urban Development	Approval (informally)
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare	Disapproval

Discussion

In late 1973, the Administration proposed legislation to consolidate and expand current Federal fire prevention programs. The legislation was designed to focus on fire prevention, rather than fire fighting, and was to supplement existing State and local efforts. The proposed programs were to be limited to three key areas: a training and education program; a data and information system; and, a research and development program. The Administration's proposal grew out of the study report of the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, which found that 12,000 people are killed annually in the United States by fire, and that inadequate attention is being given to fire prevention.





The enrolled bill would provide the authorities requested by the Administration and some additional ones outlined below. The bill, however, exceeds the Administration's request in one particularly undesirable respect. The bill would require the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to establish, under the National Institutes of Health jurisdiction, an expanded burn program. NIH would be required to fund the establishment of 25 burn research and treatment centers, 25 burn treatment units and 90 burn programs in general hospitals and to carry out an expanded program of burn research. The required program would be expensive, duplicative, and unnecessary. Moreover, the centers should not be under NIH, the specific number is unrealistic, and the bill is too specific to allow efficient use of existing facilities. Because of this provision, HEW recommends a veto of S. 1769.

The provisions of the enrolled bill would:

- provide for establishment of a National Fire Prevention and Control Administration and for appointment of an Administrator at Level IV and a Deputy Administrator at Level V.
- create a National Academy for Fire Prevention and Control to advance professional development of fire service personnel. The bill authorizes up to \$9 million to build a facility for this program and authorizes stipends for students in training programs and in academic degree programs in fire research or engineering. The Administration opposed a requirement for a separate academy facility. The language of the bill will give the Administration flexibility to use existing Federal, State or local facilities.
- require the Administrator to develop a National Fire Data Center to collect, analyze, and disseminate information on prevention, occurrence, control, and results of all types of fires. The Administration had requested similar authority.
- require the Administrator to develop, test, and evaluate fire equipment including such specific items as clothing, breathing apparatus, fire detectors, and in-place fire prevention systems. The Administration had requested authority respecting only fire prevention equipment. Nowwithstanding the fact that this authority would also cover fire fighting equipment, the bill provides enough flexibility to accommodate a program focussed on fire prevention.



- authorize annual appropriations for the foregoing activities, except the Academy building, of \$10 million for fiscal year 1975 and \$15 million for fiscal year 1976. Appropriations for fiscal year 1975 have already been enacted at a level of \$6 million and the level for fiscal year 1976 represents a substantial reduction at the request of the Administration from a previous level of \$21 million.
- establish within the Department of Commerce a Fire Research Center to perform and support research on all aspects of fire and authorize appropriations of up to \$3.5 million for fiscal year 1975 and \$4 million for fiscal year 1976. The Secretary would be authorized to conduct the Center program directly or by contracts or grants. The Administration had requested such authority for an R&D effort.
- require establishment within NIH as discussed above of an expanded and undesirable burn program including the establishment of centers under NIH jurisdiction discussed above. The bill would authorize appropriation of up to \$5 million for this activity for fiscal year 1975 and up to \$8 million for fiscal year 1976. HEW recommends veto because of this provision.

The bill also would authorize or require several other activities for which authority was not requested by the Administration. Although these provisions are unnecessary, they are not highly objectionable. These additional provisions would:

- authorize and direct each agency to furnish the Administrator such services as he requests.
- require the Administrator to assist the Consumer Product Safety Commission as provided in the Consumer Product Safety Act.
- authorize but not require a public education program.
- authorize but not require the Administrator to encourage the development of master fire prevention and control plans by States and political subdivisions thereof and require him to report at the end of four years from the date of enactment on master planning activities including in the report a model master plan.



- provide for reimbursement, from unappropriated funds in the Treasury, to a fire service for expenses of fighting fires on Federal property. Reimbursement to the Treasury by the agency assisted is provided for.
- authorize but not require the Administrator to review and comment on public and private fire and building codes, to encourage owners and managers of residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation structures to prepare Fire Effectiveness Statements pursuant to standards developed by the Administrator, and to convene and finance an annual conference.

The bill includes the substance of all the authorities requested by the Administration, and its implementation should help reduce the Nation's losses from fire as well as permit a desirable consolidation of Federal fire prevention programs in one Federal agency. While the bill includes some provisions not requested by the Administration, the unrequested provisions are acceptable with the exception of the requirement that HEW establish a burn program.

We have prepared a signing statement (attached) for your consideration which reiterates the objections to the requirement that the HEW Secretary establish an expanded burn program, and states that you oppose appropriation of funds to implement this program.

*Melvin H. Rowland*

Assistant Director for  
Legislative Reference

Enclosures



18 OCT 1974

Honorable Roy L. Ash  
Director, Office of Management  
and Budget  
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Ash:

This is in reply to your request for a review by the Department of Commerce on S. 1769, an enrolled enactment titled

"Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974."

S. 1769 establishes within the Department of Commerce a National Fire Prevention and Control Administration. This new Administration is authorized to undertake programs to educate the public and to overcome public indifference concerning fire and fire prevention.

The bill directs the Secretary to establish a National Academy for Fire Prevention and Control for the purpose of advancing the professional development of fire service personnel and of other persons engaged in fire prevention and control activities.

The bill also directs the Administrator of the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration to conduct a continuing program of development, testing, and evaluation of equipment for use by the National Fire Rescue and Civil Defense services for the purpose of making available improved suppression, protective, auxiliary and warning devices incorporating the latest technology.

The bill further directs the Administrator to operate directly or through contracts or grants and integrated, comprehensive "National Fire Data Center" for the selection, analysis, publication, and dissemination of information related to the prevention, occurrences, control, and results of fires of all types.





The Administrator is authorized to encourage and assist states and subdivisions in the establishment of master plans for fire prevention and control.

Provision is made for each fire service that engages in the fighting of a fire on property which is under the jurisdiction of the United States to file a claim with the Administrator for the amount of direct expenses and direct losses incurred by such fire service as a result of fighting the fire.

The bill also establishes within the Department of Commerce a fire research center to conduct and support research on all aspects of fire for the purpose of providing scientific and technical knowledge applicable to the prevention and control of fires.

The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare is directed to establish within the National Institute of Health and in cooperation with the Secretary of Commerce an expanded program of research on burns, treatment of burn injuries, and rehabilitation of victims of fire.

In Section 21(a) each department, agency, and instrumentality of the Executive Branch and each independent, regulatory agency of the United States is authorized and directed to furnish to the Administrator upon written request such assistance as the Administrator deems necessary to carry out his functions and duties pursuant to this Act.

The bill makes further provisions for the review by the Administrator of State and local fire prevention codes, the conducting of an annual conference on fire prevention and control, the issuance of public safety awards in recognition of outstanding and distinguished service by public safety officers, and requires the Secretary of Commerce to report annually to the Congress and the President on all activities relating to fire prevention and control and upon all measures taken to implement and carry out this Act.

The bill, as now proposed for enactment, has been modified from the earlier Conference Report of August 12, 1974, as follows:

a. To remove the provision of the earlier version which provided for master plan grants,



b. To provide that the construction of an Academy shall not exceed \$9 million,

c. To delete the requirement in the earlier version that construction of the Academy be approved by both the House Committee on Science and Astronautics and the Senate Committee on Commerce, and

d. To reduce Fiscal Years 1975 and 1976 appropriations of \$15 and \$21 million in Section 17 of the earlier version to respectively \$10 and \$15 million.

We are pleased to note that the bill incorporates in large measure the three important functions which we believe necessary for a comprehensive National fire prevention program. These functions, which were included in the Administration's fire proposal, H. R. 10913, were a training and education program, including a public awareness effort, a National system of fire data information, and a research and development program.

We are concerned, however, from the standpoint of efficient organization and management that the bill does not provide for a consolidation of research and development in the Administration as requested by this Department. Further, we are concerned that the position of the Administrator which is a Level IV creates an undesirable and unnecessary proliferation in those offices of the Department reporting directly to the Secretary.

Notwithstanding our concern for the diversification of research and development responsibility and the level of the Administrator, we strongly support the objectives of the bill. The reduction of human suffering and loss of property through the broad and aggressive programs authorized by this bill demand their prompt implementation. Towards this end we urge its enactment.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of Commerce expenditures of \$10 million for FY 75 and \$15 million for FY 76 to carry out sections 1 through 16 and expenditures of \$3,500,00 for FY 75 and \$4 million for FY 76 to carry out the provisions of section 18. It authorizes the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare expenditures of \$5 million for FY 75 and \$8 million for FY 76 to carry out the provisions of section 19.



It should be noted that in the recently enacted Department of Commerce appropriations for FY 1975 only \$6 million is authorized for carrying out the functions of sections 1 through 16 and section 18. Requirements for FY 76 funding have been submitted to you through the regular budget process.

Sincerely,

General Counsel



A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1769,  
FEDERAL FIRE PREVENTION AND  
CONTROL ACT OF 1974**

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Speaker, I call up the conference report on the bill (S. 1769) to reduce losses of life and property through better fire prevention and control, and for other purposes, and ask unanimous consent that the statement of the managers be read in lieu of the report.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the statement.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of October 2, 1974.)

Mr. TEAGUE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the statement be considered as read.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I shall not object, I do want to make certain—I have some concern about the procedures that have been followed in this bill. I think we have an understanding that the jurisdiction is still in the Health Committee, but probably it is better to put this operation in a services setup rather than just research organization and that can be addressed in subsequent legislation. I presume the gentleman would agree.

Mr. TEAGUE. The gentleman from Florida is exactly correct.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

(Mr. ROGERS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report on S. 1769, the Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974.

I do wish to point out that I do have some concerns about section 19 of the act which directs the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to establish burn treatment centers to be administered by the National Institutes of Health. NIH's primary function is basic and clinical research. Usually health programs involving treatment and rehabilitation or training of health care professionals are administered by the Health Services Administration and the Health Resources Administration within HEW. NIH simply does not have the facilities and administrative staff necessary to carry out these types of programs relating to burn treatment and NIH has an ongoing program on burn research within the National Institute on General Medical Sciences.

I have several other concerns about the burn treatment provisions in the conference report, and I know that my colleagues on the Health Subcommittee and I will want to review this legislation in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert two letters on this subject written by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to Chairman STAGGERS and Chairman TEAGUE.

Hon. OLIN E. TRAGUE,  
Chairman, Committee on Science and Astro-  
navitics, House of Representatives, Wash-  
ington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: As you know, the report of the Committee of Conference has been filed on S. 1769, the "Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974." I would like to take this opportunity to state the Department's objection to Section 19 of this bill.

Pursuant to Section 19 of S. 1769, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare would be authorized and directed to establish, within the National Institutes of Health and in cooperation with the Secretary of Commerce, an expanded program of research on burns, treatment of burn injuries, and reestablishment of victims of fire. We oppose enactment of Section 19 of S. 1769 because we believe that it is unnecessary and duplicative of existing statutory research authority provided by the Public Health Service Act.

The National Institutes of Health presently supports a program in burn research, primarily through the trauma program of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. NIGMS's trauma research program supported research to improve the care given to burn victims and spent over \$1.0 million during fiscal year 1973 on burn research. In addition, other components of the Department, such as the Health Services Administration and the Health Resources Administration, actively support efforts by States and local authorities to improve emergency medical care delivery and the training of clinical manpower for improving the care of victims of fire and other medical trauma. Therefore, although we share the concern of Congress and the public for this problem, we believe that no significant benefit would result from the enactment of Section 19 of S. 1769.

We are also concerned about several other aspects of the legislation.

First, the National Institutes of Health is not the health agency responsible for sponsorship and encouragement of training, treatment, rehabilitation, and health care delivery programs for burn victims, especially the training of emergency care personnel. We are concerned that the assignment of such responsibilities to NIH could have deleterious effects on the important health research that is NIH's primary responsibility. Two other health agencies—the Health Services Administration and the Health Resources Administration are already actively supporting emergency medical care delivery and in the training of clinical manpower.

Second, we believe that the numerical requirements for comprehensive burn centers, units, and programs established by S. 1769 are unrealistically and unnecessarily high. Establishment of these facilities and programs would be impossible in the time frame of this legislation.

Third, we believe that several of the mandates are unduly specific. For example:

(1) The requirements for separate hospital facilities providing specialized burn treatment and including research and training and "used only for burn victims" in Section 19(a).

(2) The requirement for "continuing support" and "new" in Section 19(b) which would prohibit assistance to burn centers and units already in existence.

These two provisions illustrate the waste-

ful and inefficient practices that would be required by this narrow categorical approach.

In summary, we must continue to object to enactment of unnecessary and duplicative statutory authorities for research programs. Consequently, we recommend against enactment of this bill.

We are advised by the Office of Management and Budget that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,  
CASPAR W. WEINBERGER,  
Secretary.

Hon. HARLEY O. STAGGERS,  
Chairman, Committee on Interstate and For-  
eign Commerce, House of Representa-  
tives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. STAGGERS: Since the Committee of Conference has filed its report on S. 1769, the Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, I would like to take this opportunity to state the Department's views on Section 19 of this bill and to urge that another course of action be pursued with regard to research on burns, treatment of burn injuries, and rehabilitation of burn victims.

Section 19 of S. 1769 directs the establishment of an expanded burn research and treatment program at the National Institutes of Health and authorizes \$5 million for FY 1975 and \$8 million for FY 1976 for the establishment of 25 burn centers (separate hospital facilities specializing in burn treatment, research, and teaching); 25 burn units (specialized burn treatment facilities in general hospitals); 90 burn programs in general hospitals; and additional programs of special training and research on burns and burn treatment.

We believe that Section 19, as it emerged from conference, would be an inappropriate and inefficient way to improve the care of fire victims. Action by the House of Representatives pursuant to an amendment explicitly deleting appropriations from the section of H.R. 11989 dealing with the NIH burn research and treatment responsibilities under the Act confirms our view that your Committee and the House as a whole question the wisdom of this approach.

Several aspects of S. 1769 concern us, including the fact that the National Institutes of Health is not the health agency responsible for the delivery of health care nor the training of emergency care personnel and that assignment of such responsibilities to the Institute could have deleterious effects on research programs which are attempting to find answers to serious health problems. In addition, we believe the specific numerical requirements for comprehensive burn centers, units, and programs are unrealistic. In our view a more incremental expansion of burn research activities is needed to assure a quality program rather than the large-scale full-blown program of activity proposed in S. 1769. Moreover, the National Institutes of Health already supports a program of burn research through the trauma program of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. In addition, other components of the Department, such as the Health Services Administration and the Health Resources Administration actively support improved emergency medical care delivery which includes burn treatment and the training of clinical manpower.

I would urge you to take the necessary steps to see that Section 19 of S. 1769 as reported by the Committee of Conference not be acted favorably upon at this time.

Sincerely,  
CASPAR W. WEINBERGER,  
Secretary.

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Speaker, I will recognize the chairman of the subcommittee which handled all the hearings on this





bill, a member of our committee who will not be with us for the next 2 years. However, I certainly expect him back the next 2 years after that.

This gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Davis) has been one of the most valuable members of our committee that we have had. I am sure that I speak for the whole committee when I say we will miss him and the Congress will miss the knowledge and the effort he puts into the work that he does.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 was first reported out of conference on August 12 of this year. Since that date we have seen a change in the Presidency and a growing concern about the national economy. President Ford in his first address to a joint session of the Congress, also on August 12, urged further restraint by the Congress on Federal expenditures.

As a result, and after consultations with my colleagues on the conference committee, I asked that the conference report be recommitted to the conference committee for the purpose of reducing the level of funding which would be authorized in this bill.

The conference bill now before the House includes a reduction of \$13.5 million below the figure originally reported. It also includes a limit of \$9 million on the construction of the National Academy for Fire Prevention and Control which would be authorized under this legislation. And finally, the separate funding for master planning demonstration grants which was included in the earlier conference bill has been taken out.

The result is a bill which would establish in the Department of Commerce a very modest but also a very promising program of fire prevention and control. This is an important program. Each year 12,000 Americans are killed in fires, and that number is growing. The research and development, and the specialized professional training which this bill would authorize can turn this trend around so that fewer American lives will be lost to unnecessary fires.

Mr. Speaker, in the development of this bill, our committee has worked closely with the Office of Management and Budget to come up with an organizational structure and a funding level acceptable to both the Congress and the administration. The conference report before the House includes those provisions and I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Davis).

Mr. DAVIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, thank the gentleman from Texas very much. I want to say that I appreciate the remarks of my distinguished chairman.

This is a moderate bill and a good bill and one that should be passed.

Mr. Speaker, the committee of conference on the bill S. 1769, the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, has resolved the differences between the House and Senate passed versions of the bill. The result of the conference is a bill which we believe is a reasonable compromise.

The Senate acted on this bill on November 2 of last year, and the House

passed it on April 29 of this year. The House acted by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting instead the language of the House bill H.R. 11939 which had been reported by the Committee on Science and Astronautics.

The bill reported by the conferees is a substitute bill. As noted in House Report 93-1413 it is the result of a careful consideration by the conference committee of the provisions found in the original bills.

Both of those bills were the result of the report submitted to the Congress and the President this spring by the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control. This commission found that more than 12,000 Americans lose their lives each year as a result of fires, and that fires produce annual property losses amounting to almost \$3 billion. Furthermore, the trend in these losses is steadily up. If that trend is to be reversed, a much stronger fire prevention and control effort must be made, and the Federal Government must make a contribution to that effort.

The two bills differed in several important respects. In regard to the organization for the fire programs proposed in the bills, the Senate bill would have established a new Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Fire Prevention and Control. The House bill would have established the fire program at a lower organizational level by setting up a National Bureau of Fire Prevention and Control within the Department. The compromise would establish a National Fire Prevention and Control Administration which, like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the Commerce Department, would report directly to the Secretary. Thus, the Senate yielded on the establishment of a subcabinet level position, while the House accepted the point that the Administrator should report to the Secretary of Commerce.

At the same time the conference bill would maintain, as a separate entity, the Fire Research Center which was established under the Fire Research and Safety Act of 1968. A separate Fire Research Center in the National Bureau of Standards was included in the House bill and was accepted by the Senate conferees.

Both the House and Senate bills provided for the establishment of a Fire Academy which would serve as a national focus for the professional training of fire officers. The conferees agreed that this Academy should be modest in scope and a limit of \$9 million on the construction cost of the Fire Academy is included in the bill. In selecting the site for the Academy, preference will be given to the use of a Federal facility which has been declared surplus to the needs of the Government. The conferees do not intend that the fire Academy be operated on the scale of the service academies or the Merchant Marine Academy which offer 4-year degree granting courses of study. Rather, it is the intent that the Fire Academy operate like the FBI Academy which offers short-term, specialized courses for fire officers.

The House bill included a provision which would permit State and local fire departments to be reimbursed for the

cost of fires which they fight on Federal property. Such reimbursement would be reduced by any amount which the Federal Government pays to the local jurisdiction in lieu of taxes. The Senate bill did not include this provision, but the Senate conferees agreed to accept it and it is included in the conference substitute.

The Senate bill included a section providing for a program of master planning demonstration projects. Master planning is aimed at insuring that adjacent jurisdictions, like a group of counties or municipalities, prepared advance plans for the coordination of firefighting activities that involve two or more such jurisdictions. Such planning is expected to yield more effective fire prevention and control, and can produce notable savings in the use of the resources needed for this purpose. This provision was not included in the House bill, but the House conferees agreed to include this provision in the conference bill, but separate funding for this activity was eliminated.

The House and the Senate bills differed widely in regard to the funding which would be authorized. The House-passed bill would have provided \$5 million for 1 year, while the Senate bill provided the sum of \$127.5 million for 3 years. The conferees agreed to a figure substantially below the difference between these two figures, and the bill would authorize the sum of \$45.5 million for 2 years.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would provide a sound program of fire prevention and control at a time when the losses from fires are growing. It is particularly appropriate that this bill be acted upon and sent to the President during National Fire Prevention Week. I urge its favorable consideration by the House.

Mr. MOSHER. Mr. Speaker, for 14 years I have had the privilege of serving with the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVIS), the chairman of the subcommittee and have had the privilege of serving under his leadership in recent years on the Subcommittee on Transportation.

I certainly want to join with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TROTT) in speaking of my own personal strong feelings and that of other minority members on our side of the aisle as we approach the time when we will lose the services of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVIS). He has been a distinguished member of our committee and a tremendous worker. He has been very knowledgeable and very effective, and we are going to miss him sorely, not only there but in his role as one of the original members of the Board of Governors of the Office of Technology Assessment.

I express my regret in losing the gentleman from Georgia.

It is a privilege to join with him now in urging that the House support the conference report on the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974. It merits the support of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to compliment the chairman of the Committee on Science and Astronautics and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Science,



Research, and Development for their leadership in spearheading the Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974.

The various aspects in conference were closely studied and I cite the House conferees in particular for having done such an outstanding job. The resolve of the conferees is underscored by the unanimous agreement on the conference report by the Committee of Conference.

At the outset, I would like to recognize the tremendous contribution made by Congressman ROBERT STEELE to this legislation. As I am sure my colleagues will agree, the bill now before us clearly reflects the imagination, ideas, and effort of Congressman STEELE and the Science Committee is indebted to him for his initiative and leadership in the field of fire prevention and control.

Mr. Speaker, the conference bill which we now submit for consideration reflects largely the original House bill while at the same time adopting some excellent Senate-originated recommendations. The fusion of both House and Senate features has resulted in a strong legislative response to the long-standing call for a comprehensive and hard-hitting fire prevention and control program.

In terms of specific changes, a point of contention was the organizational structure of the new fire program within the Department of Commerce. The House bill had provided for the establishment of a Fire Bureau headed by a Director and reporting to the Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology. The Senate bill had created a new Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Fire Prevention and Control. These two competing positions were compromised by creating a Fire Prevention and Control Administration within the Department of Commerce. The Administration will be headed by an Administrator who reports directly to the Secretary. The new Fire Administration is modeled on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—NOAA—currently with the Department of Commerce.

The Fire Prevention and Control Administration will provide the needed focus and direction to our Nation's fire fighting efforts. The vehicle of the administration will also insure that its work will be highly visible. The administration will have charge of many of the programs and features found in the original House and Senate bills. It will administer the Fire Academy, the Fire Data center, the fire technology program, the public education program, the master plan demonstration projects, the Federal fire reimbursement program, and other fire activities.

The National Academy for Fire Prevention and Control is meant to serve as a central training facility for our Nation's firefighters. It is not our intent that the academy become a large, degree-granting institution. Rather we envision it to be a streamlined center modeled along the lines of the very successful FEI Academy. To insure that the academy's size stays within reasonable limits, the conferees put a ceiling of \$9 million on construction costs. This will hold initial expenditures in check and also result in

lower, long-term operating costs because of the compactness of the academy.

The National Fire Data Center will develop a comprehensive, integrated storehouse of information on fire problems. It will provide the necessary data base to spot and tabulate erstwhile overlooked details. In addition it will establish a baseline against which to measure the effectiveness of new firefighting techniques and technologies.

The master plan demonstration projects provision was adopted from the Senate bill. There was no similar House counterpart. The goal of the master plan concept is to assist local fire jurisdictions in setting fire service priorities for the future. These projects will analyze and allocate resources for the maximum fire protection benefit in light of the changing needs of the community. After the conference bill was recommittees the conferees deleted separate line item authorization for demonstration projects. The required funds will be allocated by the Administrator from his overall budget.

The fire research program is an exception to the other fire programs in that it is not intended to be under the direct control of the fire administration. The committee of conference believed that the continuation of the existing fire research program within the National Bureau of Standards is the best course of action. The National Bureau of Standards—NBS—has demonstrated its expertise and dedication in this area and thus merits our ongoing confidence and support. The Senate version would have stripped NBS of its fire research role and would have placed it in the new Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Fire Prevention and Control which it contemplated establishing.

Other aspects of the conference bill deal with reimbursing local jurisdictions the costs of fighting fires on Federal property; fostering public recognition of outstanding contributions to firefighting by granting appropriate awards; educating the public about fire hazards; and insuring that the public has convenient access to all pertinent fire data. The Secretary of Commerce is authorized to review relevant building codes and regulations. In this evaluation the Secretary will consider the human impact of such codes in addition to aspects of comfort and practicality. The House bill contained no similar building code review provision.

Both the Senate and House bills include provisions for helping fire victims. The conference bill establishes an expanded program of burn research and rehabilitation within the National Institute of Health. The human tragedy which fires cause is even more compelling of a solution than the staggering property loss which it brings. The authorized funding for this burn program is \$5 million in fiscal year 1975, and \$8 million in fiscal year 1976.

In overall terms, the results of the conference were that where the House authorized \$5.5 million for 1 year and the Senate authorized \$127.5 million for 3 years the committee of conference resolved to authorize \$45.5 million for

2 years. There is authorized \$18.5 million and \$27 million over fiscal years 1975 and 1976. Part of this increase is attributable to Senate provisions which were not found in the House bill.

I share my colleagues concern for a sound Federal budget and the reduction of inflation. However these expenditures are modest when we remember that the toll in property loss alone due to fire each year is nearly \$2 billion. The indirect cost of fires such as maintaining fire departments is over \$8 billion per year. Few people would suggest that we reduce our aggressive search for new energy sources in these times of acute need and pessimistic projections. I believe it likewise ill advised to curtail the attack on the fire problem in these times of mounting human suffering, resource destruction, and rampant property loss. The compromise authorization of \$45.5 million has been discussed with the Office of Management and Budget and accepted as reasonable.

Mr. Speaker, in summary, the conference bill is a synthesis of the best features of both House and Senate bills. The Fire Prevention and Control Act establishes a comprehensive program to tackle head on one of man's oldest scourages. I urge support of the bill before us as commitment to cope with a situation which is both a personal tragedy and a national disgrace.

Mr. DAVIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. DAVIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am exceedingly grateful to the gentleman for his remarks.

Mr. WINN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas.

Mr. WINN. I appreciate the gentleman's yielding.

I, too, want to express my appreciation for the leadership of the gentleman from Georgia and for the outstanding ability that he has exhibited on the Committee on Science and Astronautics.

I also appreciate his deep belief that we should do more and more to prevent fires and losses, not only to the public, but to firemen. I also appreciate the work that he has put in on the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974. As a member of the committee of conference I, too, want to say that we will miss the gentleman very deeply, and I hope he will come back and give us the benefit of his advice and counsel.

Mr. CRONIN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MOSHER. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. CRONIN. I also rise in support of this bill and in words of praise for the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Davis).

While only a freshman, I have had the opportunity to travel with the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Davis) to see the Fire Fighting College in England. I know how very hard he worked after that trip to prepare this legislation and to see it through to the point where it is today.

I think every firefighter in the United States of America owes a deep debt of



gratitude to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Davis), and I am sure that every citizen in the United States will, hopefully, be better protected as a result of this legislation and that every citizen owes him an undying debt of gratitude. His ability and dedication will be missed by the members of our committee and the Congress. We wish him well in his new career.

(Mr. CROWNIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed on my way to the floor and consequently was unable to record my vote on the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974.

The massive problem of fire destruction in this country certainly merits increased attention by the Federal Government, and I would have voted "aye" on this important legislation.

Mr. MOSHER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I move the previous question on the conference report.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the conference report.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROSTENKOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 381, nays 3, not voting 50, as follows:

[Roll No. 592]

YEAS—381

Abdnor  
Abzug  
Adams  
Addabbo  
Alexander  
Anderson, Calif.  
Anderson, Ill.  
Andrews, N.C.  
Andrews, N.D.  
Annuizio  
Archer  
Arends  
Armstrong  
Ashbrook  
Ashley  
Aspin  
Aydin  
Bafalis  
Baker  
Barrett  
Bauman  
Beard  
Bell  
Bennett  
Bergland  
Bevil  
Bacri  
Bishopham  
Blatnik  
Boas  
Boiland  
Bolling  
Bowen  
Brademas  
Bray  
Breaklidge  
Brinkley  
Brooks

Broomfield  
Bronza  
Brown, Calif.  
Brown, Mich.  
Brown, Ohio  
Broyhill, N.C.  
Buchanan  
Burgener  
Burke, Calif.  
Burke, Fla.  
Burke, Mass.  
Burlison, Mo.  
Burton, John  
Burton, Phillip  
Butler  
Byrd  
Camp  
Carney, Ohio  
Carter  
Casey, Tex.  
Caulderberg  
Chamberlain  
Chappell  
Chisholm  
Clancy  
Clausen,  
Don H.  
Clay  
Cleveland  
Cochran  
Cohen  
Collier  
Collins, Ill.  
Conlan  
Conta  
Corman  
Ford  
Coughlin

Crane  
Cronin  
Culver  
Daniel, Dan  
Daniels  
Dominick V.  
Danielson  
Davis, Ga.  
Davis, S.C.  
Davis, Wis.  
Delaney  
Dellenback  
Dellums  
Denboin  
Dent  
Derwinski  
Devine  
Dickinson  
Dingell  
Downing  
Drinan  
Dulski  
du Pont  
Eckhardt  
Edwards, Ala.  
Edwards, Calif.  
Erlenborn  
Esch  
Eshleman  
Evans, Colo.  
Evins, Tenn.  
Fascell  
Findley  
Fitch  
Fisher  
Flood  
Flowers  
Foley  
Ford  
Forsythe

Fountain  
Fraser  
Frelighuyzen  
Frenzel  
Frey  
Froehlich  
Fulton  
Fuqua  
Gaydos  
Getty  
Gianno  
Gibbons  
Gillman  
Glinn  
Goldwater  
Gonzalez  
Goodling  
Grasso  
Gray  
Green, Oreg.  
Green, Pa.  
Griffiths  
Grower  
Gubser  
Gude  
Gunter  
Guyer  
Mink  
Hamilton  
Hammer-schmidt  
Hauley  
Hanna  
Hanrahan  
Hansen, Wash.  
Harrington  
Harsha  
Hastings  
Hawkins  
Hays  
Hechler, W. Va.  
Heckler, Mass.  
Helstoski  
Henderson  
Hicks  
Hillis  
Hinshaw  
Hogan  
Holifield  
Holt  
Holtzman  
Horton  
Hosmer  
Howard  
Huber  
Hudnut  
Hungate  
Hunt  
Hutchinson  
Ichord  
Jarman  
Johnson, Calif.  
Johnson, Pa.  
Jones, Ala.  
Jones, N.C.  
Jones, Okla.  
Jones, Tenn.  
Jordan  
Karch  
Kastenmeier  
Kazen  
Kemp  
Ketchum  
Kling  
Koch  
Kuczyński  
Koy  
Kuykendall  
Kyros  
Lagomarsino  
Latta  
Leggett  
Lehman  
Lent-  
Litton  
Long, La.  
Long, Md.  
Lujan  
Luken  
McCloskey

McCuller  
McCormack  
McEwen  
McFall  
McKay  
McKinney  
McNair  
Macdonald  
Madigan  
Mahon  
Mahoney  
Maraziti  
Martin, Nebr.  
Martin, N.C.  
Mathis, Ga.  
Matsunaga  
Mayne  
Mazooli  
Meeds  
Melcher  
Metcalfe  
Meyer  
Michel  
Milford  
Miller  
Minnis  
Mintz  
Mitchell, Md.  
Mitchell, N.Y.  
Mizell  
Molohan  
Monahan  
Moorhead,  
Calif.  
Moorhead, Pa.  
Morgan  
Mosher  
Moss  
Murphy, Ill.  
Murphy, N.Y.  
Murtha  
Myers  
Natcher  
Nedzi  
Nichols  
Nix  
Obey  
O'Brien  
O'Neill  
Owens  
Parris  
Passman  
Pattman  
Patten  
Perkins  
Pettis  
Peyster  
Pike  
Poase  
Preyer  
Price, Ill.  
Price, Tex.  
Riegle  
Quillen  
Raisback  
Randall  
Rangel  
Rarick  
Rees  
Regula  
Reuss  
Rhodes  
Riegle  
Rinaldo  
Roberts  
Robinson, Va.  
Robinson, N.Y.  
Rodino  
Roe  
Rogers  
Roncallo, Wyo.  
Roncallo, N.Y.  
Roney, Pa.  
Rose  
Rosenthal  
Rostenkowski  
Roush  
Rousselot

McColler  
McEwen  
McFall  
McKay  
McKinney  
McNair  
Macdonald  
Madigan  
Mahon  
Mahoney  
Maraziti  
Martin, Nebr.  
Martin, N.C.  
Mathis, Ga.  
Matsunaga  
Mayne  
Mazooli  
Meeds  
Melcher  
Metcalfe  
Meyer  
Michel  
Milford  
Miller  
Minnis  
Mintz  
Mitchell, Md.  
Mitchell, N.Y.  
Mizell  
Molohan  
Monahan  
Moorhead,  
Calif.  
Moorhead, Pa.  
Morgan  
Mosher  
Moss  
Murphy, Ill.  
Murphy, N.Y.  
Murtha  
Myers  
Natcher  
Nedzi  
Nichols  
Nix  
Obey  
O'Brien  
O'Neill  
Owens  
Parris  
Passman  
Pattman  
Patten  
Perkins  
Pettis  
Peyster  
Pike  
Poase  
Preyer  
Price, Ill.  
Price, Tex.  
Riegle  
Quillen  
Raisback  
Randall  
Rangel  
Rarick  
Rees  
Regula  
Reuss  
Rhodes  
Riegle  
Rinaldo  
Roberts  
Robinson, Va.  
Robinson, N.Y.  
Rodino  
Roe  
Rogers  
Roncallo, Wyo.  
Roncallo, N.Y.  
Roney, Pa.  
Rose  
Rosenthal  
Rostenkowski  
Roush  
Rousselot

Roy  
Rovyal  
Ruppe  
Ruth  
Nelsen  
O'Hara  
Pepper  
Podell  
Powell, Ohio

Mills  
Minshall, Ohio  
Moakley  
Nelsen  
O'Hara  
Pepper  
Podell  
Powell, Ohio

Pritchard  
Rooney, N.Y.  
Rumels  
Ryan  
Schroeder  
Snyder  
Steele  
Stubblefield

Stuckey  
S'nnms  
Terman  
Ware  
White  
Whitehurst  
Williams  
Young, S.C.

Mills  
Minshall, Ohio  
Moakley  
Nelsen  
O'Hara  
Pepper  
Podell  
Powell, Ohio

Pritchard  
Rooney, N.Y.  
Rumels  
Ryan  
Schroeder  
Snyder  
Steele  
Stubblefield

Stuckey  
S'nnms  
Terman  
Ware  
White  
Whitehurst  
Williams  
Young, S.C.

So the conference report was agreed to.

The Clerk announced the following pairs:

Mr. Hébert with Mr. Del Clawson.  
Mr. Rooney of New York with Mr. Robert W. Daniels, Jr.  
Mr. Clark with Mr. Hansen of Idaho.  
Mr. Carey of New York with Mr. Duncan.  
Mr. de la Garza with Mr. Biester.  
Mr. Stunzel with Mr. McDade.  
Mr. Stuckey with Mr. Dennis.  
Mr. White with Mr. Helnz.  
Mr. Mann with Mr. Minshall of Ohio.  
Mr. Pepper with Mr. Conable.  
Mrs. Schroeder with Mr. Fritchard.  
Mr. Mills with Mr. Mathis of California.  
Mr. Stubblefield with Mr. Snyder.  
Mr. Steed  
Mr. Ryan with Mr. Powell of Ohio.  
Mr. Landrum with Mr. Symms.  
Mr. Conyers with Mr. Tiernan.  
Mr. Digs with Mr. Dorn.  
Mr. Stokes with Mr. Ware.  
Mr. Eilberg with Mr. Steele.  
Mr. Flynt with Mr. Whitehurst.  
Mr. Moakley with Mr. Young of South Carolina.  
Mr. O'Hara with Mr. Williams.  
Mr. Breax with Mr. Blackburn.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid upon the table.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Arrington, one of its clerks.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 3838) entitled "An act to authorize the regulation of interest rates payable on obligations issued by affiliates of certain depository institutions, and for other purposes."

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the substance of the conference report on S. 1769, the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING SECRETARY OF SENATE TO MAKE CORRECTION IN ENROLLMENT OF S. 1769, FEDERAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT OF 1974

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 661) to authorize a correction in the enrollment of S. 1769.

NAYS—3  
Collins, Tex.  
Gross  
Landgrebe

NOT VOTING—50

Daniel, Robert  
Flynt  
Hansen, Idaho  
Hébert  
Helnz  
Johnson, Colo.  
Landrum  
McDade  
Mann  
Mathis, Calif.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Why is the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act necessary?

A. This bill climaxes years of effort initiated under the Fire Research and Safety Act of 1968. The National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control provided a fine base for this legislation by its two years of intensive work, defining our most significant fire safety problems and our greatest opportunities for fire loss reduction. The Commission in its report "America Burning" documented the waste of over \$11 billion of our resources each year due to destructive fires. They forcefully brought to our attention the 12,000 deaths and tens of thousands of injuries each year, and that firefighting is our most hazardous profession. Their recommendations through the efforts of the Congress and the Department of Commerce have led to this bill. The National Commission estimated the annual United States fire costs as:

Property loss	\$ 2,700,000,000
Fire department operations	2,500,000,000
Burn injury treatment	1,000,000,000
Operating cost of insurance industry	1,900,000,000
Productivity loss	3,300,000,000
<hr/>	
Total	\$11,400,000,000

Q. Why did the Administration consider a veto of this legislation?

A. In these times of inflation, all new spending bills should be questioned. Recognizing this, the Congress has reduced the inflationary aspects of this Act by reducing authorizations from \$15 million to \$10 million in FY 75 and from \$21 million to \$15 million in FY 76. Congress also modified the section of the bill calling for expensive demonstration grants for fire protection planning so that less costly model master plans are called for. (Note: HMB has recommended that the President include in his signing statement his objection to the requirement in the bill that HEW establish an expanded burn center program and that he opposes the appropriation of funds to implement such a burn program. The reasons for HEW's





objections are that the required burn center would be expensive, duplicative, and unnecessary. Moreover, burn centers should not be under NIH. Should the President include in his signing statement the HEW recommendation as to the burn center program, your answer to this question should also note this difficulty with the Act. We will furnish you a copy of the President's signing statement as soon as possible.)

Q. What will be the funding to implement this Act?

A. Although the Department of Commerce had asked for \$13 million for FY 75, Congress has appropriated only \$6 million. During this first year of planning, we will estimate the costs for following years.

Q. When will the new Fire Administration called for in this Act begin operations?

A. For several months, we have had a task force in the Department which has been planning for this new agency. Now that this law has been enacted, these efforts will move forward swiftly.

Q. When do you expect an Administrator to be on board, and what qualifications will he have?

A. We already have several candidates under consideration and we expect that the new Administrator will be nominated by the President in the near future. Such a nomination will, of course, require the advice and consent of the Senate.

The qualifications of the Administrator may include:

- Should be a prominent figure in the fire community;
- Should have experience with firefighting and prevention;
- Should be familiar with the national fire problem;



- Philosophically, should have the view that the national fire program is to supplement local programs, and not supplant them;
- Should be skillful in working with people who hold different views, with the ability to bring them to consensus;
- Should have demonstrated management skills;
- Should be able to attract able people to the new agency.

Q. What programs will be given highest priority in the new agency?

A. We have testified to the Senate and the House that an essential base for the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act must include an education and training program, a fire data system, and a research and development program united by a single integrated systems management approach. The education and training program will consist of a national Fire Academy system as well as a public safety education thrust.

Q. How will the fire services and all the fire experts make their input into your plans?

A. We will form a Fire Advisory Committee composed of representatives from all parts of the fire community. The Advisory Committee will include persons such as:

- Fire Prevention Experts
- Firefighting and Training Experts
- Fire Data Specialists
- Public Information and Media Professionals
- Building Code and Design Officials



- Insurance Experts
- Physicians
- Manufacturers
- and Consumer Representatives

Our goal is to have representatives from every facet of the complex fire community who are informed on every aspect of this issue that touches upon the life of every American.

Q. How do you envision the National Fire Academy System?

A. The Fire Academy System, headed by a superintendent, will provide education and training for firefighters and the fire personnel across the Nation. A major effort to provide better training must be provided.

The U.S. already has many existing training establishments. Large urban fire departments typically have their own training divisions which handle recruits and specialist training. Smaller and volunteer departments are often served by State vocational training offices, or by State university or community colleges. This informal system is not uniform in quality and varies from region to region. The education and training program we propose would help improve the existing State and local fire education and training capability.

Several existing State training schools will be upgraded to provide regional centers for training middle-level firemen in techniques of strategy and tactics not available locally.

Certain of these centers will undoubtedly specialize in areas of interest to a certain region. For example, wildfires might be a top priority in western regions. In Texas and Oklahoma, fires at the oil well-head are a special problem. In densely populated areas, high-rise fires must be addressed, etc.



Prevention programs will be emphasized as well as inspection programs and public education. Among other things the Academy System would provide course material for specialized and advanced training programs. Such courses might cover prevention of tank car fires, chemical, and other special hazards. There is also a need to develop advanced training materials and new types of courses at the management or command level in cooperation with State universities. For example, areas such as examination structure and promotion policy, resource deployment, use of computers, and municipal budgeting and finance should be strengthened.

(Note: The training program will have a function broader than firefighting training. There will be courses for other persons needing fire safety information, such as code officials, building inspectors, equipment manufacturers, and industrial fire safety managers. Moreover, the program will develop material for public educators. Here the approach will be to develop specific information for specific audiences. Statistical data will be used to identify problem areas and appropriate audiences. A central program will be established for command courses and courses in public administration for senior officers. This will be the Headquarters, the hub of the National Academy System.)

Q. Where will the headquarters of the Academy be, and when will it be built?

A. The Act calls for the Academy to be located on a site which we select subject to the following provisions:

- (1) A Site Selection Board consisting of the Academy Superintendent and two other members will survey the most suitable sites for the location of the Academy and make recommendations to me.
- (2) The Site Selection Board in making its recommendations, as well as I in making the final selection, will consider the training and facility needs of the Academy, environmental effects, the possibility of using a surplus Government facility, and other important and relevant factors which our search uncovers.





The Act calls for a final site selection within two years.

Note that we have already taken a first step toward establishing the Academy System by issuing a Federal Register notice on September 20 in which we asked the assistance of the fire community in developing a national survey of fire education and training programs already in existence throughout the country.

Q. What will the National Fire Data Center do?

A. This Center will integrate all important information and data on our fire loss, then analyze and disseminate this information. The program of the Data Center will be designed to:

- (1) provide an accurate national analysis of the fire problem,
- (2) identify major problem areas,
- (3) assist the Administration and local authority in setting priorities,
- (4) indicate possible solutions to the problems, and
- (5) monitor our progress in reducing fire losses.

Q. How will the Public Awareness program be carried out?

A. The objective of this public safety education program is to minimize the ignorance and carelessness which are significant factors in causing fires. This year we will study different methods of reaching the public so that in fiscal year 1976 pilot campaigns can be designed and conducted. We plan to launch a sequence of controlled tests using different selected cities. The special target of these educational efforts will be those fires such as building fires in which human action or carelessness is a prime contributor. Additional focus is expected on:



- (a) increasing awareness of equipment faults and usage which are recognizable fire hazards, and
- (b) increasing the public's knowledge of proper reaction to a fire situation. The most effective communication media will be determined and monitors will be built in for measuring the impact of the message.

Q. What research activities are called for by the Act?

A. The present fire research programs at the National Bureau of Standards and the National Science Foundation come under the umbrella of this Act, along with a thrust toward near-term results which will be carried by the new Administration.

The NSF program of grants for fire research at universities and non-profit organizations will not be diminished by its transfer to this Department. The NBS program of basic and applied research to understand the fundamental processes of destructive fire will be given new life by Section 18 of the Act. Finally, the Technology Development Program called for by Section 8 of the Act will build on the present NBS Fire Services Technology Program to an expanded effort in development, testing and evaluation of equipment and devices ranging from firefighters' turnout coats to smoke detectors.

Q. What will be the relation between NBS fire research and the new National Fire Prevention and Control Administration?

A. Section 18 of the Act calls for a Fire Research Center with a mission of performing and supporting research on all aspects of fire, with the aim at providing scientific knowledge applicable to the prevention and control of fires. This program will focus on basic and applied research on combustion processes as well as on factors affecting both victims of fire and firefighters.



The content and priorities of the research program will be determined through consultation between management of the research program and the Administrator of the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration.

