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Setting National Priorities: the 1972 Budget

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lem (how to rule himself), the author undertakes an objective review and criticism of an extensive number of ideas and concepts advanced by other writers. For the hudding political scientist this appendix is without doubt a treasure chest and an excellent review of the jargon, concepts, and literature of the contemporary scene in political science. The notes, which are extensively annotated, complement the appendix.

If the reader keeps in mind the three tines of the author's pitchfork with which he works his way through the vast haystack of history, economics, science, and politics, one could say that this is a book about security, welfare and growth, government, history, philosophy, geography, and even a romance. All would be true.

C.O. FISKE
Captain, U.S. Navy

Schultze, Charles L., et al. *Setting National Priorities: the 1972 Budget*. Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution, 1971. 192 p.

Last year the Brookings Institution began the practice of publishing an annual analysis of the Federal budget. This year's product, written by Brookings Senior Fellows, is entitled "Setting National Priorities—the 1972 Budget." It is an important book for anyone interested in U.S. national security, since about one-third of the book is devoted to analysis of the defense budget.

The basic concept underlying both this work, and the annual program of budget analysis which it reflects, is set forth in the preface by Kermit Gordon, Brookings' president: "No other single document exerts as much influence as does the federal budget on how the nation allocates resources and exercises its spending priorities. Yet it receives relatively little attention in public discussion of the Nation's goals and the resources for achieving them."

It was to meet this deficiency that

Brookings began the practice of publishing each year a book which would identify the major decisions on allocating national resources that the President makes in formulating his budget proposals, outline the alternative choices available in each major sector, and discuss the costs and benefits—both immediate and short range—of each alternative. The reaction to last year's volume was strongly favorable: Congressman Wilbur Mills, Senator William Proxmire, and Under Secretary of the Treasury Charles Walker were among many members of the legislative and executive branches of government who commended its impartial bipartisan analysis of vital issues. This reaction confirmed the Brookings' belief that it would be useful to continue this series, which represents the only detailed, non-governmental, unclassified, and objective analysis of budgetary choices available to the public.

This year's book has already been greeted with a similar positive response. It begins with an overview which discusses the overall balance between revenues and expenditures. After several chapters dealing with defense; analyses of revenue sharing, welfare, social security, medical care, environmental quality, transportation, housing, and agriculture follow along with a conclusion concerning fiscal prospects through 1976.

The book avoids making recommendations, either pro or con, regarding the principal issues which it treats. Rather it merely identifies the implications of alternative courses. It is intended to enable the reader to form his own judgments, not to suggest what they should be.

The defense section begins with a discussion of the President's annual foreign policy message—outlining the foreign policy assumptions which underlie the defense budget. This is followed by a chapter on "Major Defense Options," which identifies and discusses

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the main features of this year's defense budget:

- a reduction in ground forces of three divisions from the pre-Vietnam level;

- a reduction of attack carriers from 15 to 13, along with an accelerated pace of naval modernization;

- a reduction in the number of air wings from 40 in 1964 to 35, along with a projected modernization of tactical air capabilities;

- maintenance of a diversified strategic deterrent at fairly stable cost.

The next chapter treats special defense issues: the role of the aircraft

carrier, tactical aircraft problems and choices, tactical nuclear weapons in Europe, Vietnam, and the peace dividend, and strategic systems and costs. The concluding chapter discusses foreign aid—both economic and military.

Since budgetary pressures and problems drive most key defense decisions and programs, anyone seriously interested in understanding these decisions and programs will benefit from a thorough reading of this book.

HENRY OWEN

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When you read, *read!* Too many students just half read. I never read without summarizing—and so understanding what I read. The art of memory is the art of understanding.

Roscoe Pound, dean emeritus, Harvard Law School