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## CHAPTER IV

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### COSTS OF INFORMATION SERVICES

#### *Conclusions and Recommendations*

**In the Blue Book of Estimates, the cost of information services should be fully and clearly shown for each program of each department and for all government agencies. Treasury Board should publish a definition so that departments will know what items should be included in information services. This definition should be developed for Treasury Board by Information Canada.**

**Information Canada should act as the agent of the Treasury Board in screening the information budgets of all departments and agencies and advise Treasury Board regarding expenditures on information programs proposed by departments.**

One of the more striking features of the testimony given in the course of the Committee hearings was that no one quite knew what information was, at least for accounting purposes. The Blue Book of Estimates for example, does not list information as a separate activity for many departments; in fact only six departments out of approximately thirty listed some form of information services including public relations in the Blue Book as a Program or an Activity supporting a Program, the rest having included information in their Administration Program or having combined it with other activities.

Estimating the costs of government information services has always been a difficult art, due at least partly to the evolving nature of our concepts of