

enterprise. Unfortunately in many elements of government spending the benefits are diverse and incapable of quantitative expression by reference to any accepted standard; generally matters of subjective and political judgment, and frequently remote in the future.

The Finite Research Pie Concept

Part of the concern about science policy stems from the concept of a "finite pie" and the problem of its equitable division and distribution. There are several difficulties with this over-simplified analogy.

If the government should designate a certain part of the budget for research which was to be regarded as a "finite pie", it would be necessary, first, to define much more precisely what "research" includes. There is a trend today to apply the term to an increasing variety of activities, such as literature searches, patent searches, market studies, opinion polls, cost accounting, investigations of administrative procedures, compliance testing of manufactured goods, control laboratory operation, cost-budget analysis, etc. If all are fed from the same pie the slices must be smaller. With the increasing complexity of government and its increasing involvement with the physical, biological and social sciences, the distinction between research and associate technical activities is increasingly difficult to define and the edges of the pie become hidden in fog.

Deputy Ministers are concerned with the interdependence of research and other activities in their departments and may