

Another organizational change, which represents a break with the past is the introduction of a large rectangularly arranged table, instead of the traditional easy chairs in a semi-circle, in the main conference room for all plenary sessions. The impact upon the proceedings and, more importantly, on the atmosphere of the conference is noticeable for anyone who has previously taken part in Wilton Park sessions. There is now an increased element of 'efficiency', but also formality present in these conferences. Whether or not it enhances (or runs counter to) the originally intended purposes of Wilton Park sessions remains to be seen. It is quite clear, however, that as things change, so must we. Perhaps the note of urgency which is introduced by compressed sessions and more formal conference procedures will be helpful to get us properly introduced to the quickening pace of change. For the present conference this seemed to be quite appropriate and as such an asset.

KEY THEMES AND IMPRESSIONS

As may have been expected, there was a fairly heavy American presence evident in the planning and proceedings of the conference itself. This was probably deliberate and may have been necessary to trigger off a successful series of sessions on this particular topic. It quite soon became obvious that a gap seems to be opening up between current U.S. and European thinking about jobs, unemployment and social security. Some of the U.S. presentations, especially the opening key address, tended towards "lecturing" the Europeans on their "wrongs" and inadequacies in this respect. In all fairness, there was also, from several Europeans present, to a large extent, agreement with many of the claims set forth by the U.S. delegates. However, at times the "message" came on a bit too strongly to be fully successful, seemingly, hence it could