The budget: a special analysis

Energy: R&D plans lacking

Research and development priorities for fiscal 1977 in the energy area are directed heavily toward one goal — energy independence.

The bulk of federal R&D expenditures will be for energy, and in particular, nuclear, technology, under the auspices of the new Energy Research and Development Administration.

ERDA's first budget will approach $4 billion, with specialists on Capitol Hill are keeping a keen eye on the agency's budget and justifications for the full amount asked for. Congressional staffers on the committee may come difficult.

Although R&D activities of a number of federal agencies were integrated into ERDA when it was created last year, energy research remains scattered throughout the federal bureaucracy.

The ERDA budget is, according to one Senate staffers it is "the most explicit version of the Ford Administration's R&D policy yet."

Ford's proposal could use a major change in the农副产品 and national defense loan funds is in BEOG, which is being increased from $650 million in 1976 to $975 million in FY76, NDSL and supplementary aid funds would really hurt our stake in the aid struggle.

The Ford budget goes through the rationale for MIT would be increased pressure on scholarship aid, an area that already has been cut, according to Leonard Gallagher, Associate Director of Student Financial Aid. "The demure of loan funds would really hurt our flexibility with aid," Gallagher told The Tech. "For a couple of years we might be okay, but then we would find ourselves depending very heavily on scholarship aid.

Basic policy changes in MIT would be necessary, Gallagher said, if loans are sharply reduced. "We now can guarantee loan money to any student who doesn't want to work, We'd lose that capability.

Graduate aid to MIT is not expected to drop as drastically as at Brown, since funding is spread over several years. The Federal Reserve Student Loan programs, MIT believes this aid would not be necessary, at least at this time.

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Despite the complexity of the energy R&D budget, several major changes are noticeable in ERDA's research activities.

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