POSSIBLY A NEW FUNCTION OF GOVERNMENT

In the past two to five years there has been a marked increase in long-range planning activities among the federal, State and local governments. There are a number of major developments—the establishment of new institutes, the broadening of new programs, and the identification of critical world problems. And it is in the future—the advent of a new field of activity in many existing governmental agencies. Better information about where we are now and how well our present programs are working would presumably help us in deciding where we want to go and what actions are required to get us there.

Policy Principles Needed to Coordinate Programs

The demand for changes in existing administrative procedures is in part a result of new agencies with specialized interests. Also, Congress in its current form is not organized to coordinate federal performance over time.

One of the most costly aspects of the American political system is the inability of legislatures and officials to concentrate on day-to-day events rather than on analysis and criticism of policy alternatives. Much more information is required to make policy decisions, and what actions are required to get us there.

A NEW MEDIUM FOR COMMUNICATION

I will now try to show how a new medium in radio-communication offers an opportunity to improve the quality of information and participation in the formulation of long-range public policy.

The Metamorphosis of the "Teaching Computer"

This new medium of communication has existed in rudimentary form for about two years. However, the realization of widespread use in a form that can be commercially available... The computer can be programmed as a communications system. The lesson plans for a curriculum are maintained on the computer's memory. The viewer or listener has no opportunity to go back and examine the educational experience. The level of discussion tends to he geared low, and visual aids are rarely used.

A Comparison with Other Proposals

First, the point was made earlier that television's nature evanescent. Although it is a powerful medium, it demands immediate impact and... Second, a citizensampling simulation requires a model of the social processes that would be maintained?

Proficiency Work is Now Underway

An elementary course of a "computer-based exploration of alternative futures" is already in operation at the Computer-based Education Research Laboratory of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The course was originally proposed... as a device for education and social research.

It is a device for exploring the impact of alternative futures. The probable consequences of each alternative could also be... that the public could understand more about the probable consequences of alternative futures. The probable consequences of each alternative could also be part of the programmed material. The course during the exploration. The teaching computer is a communications system. The "explorers", the explorer could use several "common trends" to suggest... the probable consequences of any action.

How Are Things Done Now

As a result of the existing methodologies for public discussion it... to examine the legal argument or to check a point he missed while his mind was diverted by another matter. In the case of either computer-based education equipment or to rearrange itself around a single newcomer. Thereafter, the many communications media now available, society is not likely to... teachers who are interested. The United States of America could be thought of as... to the public. Background information would be available upon the request of the person using the "computer-based exploration of alternative futures." The probable consequences of each alternative could also be part of the programmed material. The course during the exploration. The teaching computer is a communications system. The "explorers", the explorer could use several "common trends" to suggest... the probable consequences of any action.

The rally is better suited to solidify attitudes than to change them. The essay methodology is used by professors and government officials... of policy alternatives. Regardless of which comes first on a large scale or... the ideas held by different people about the probable consequences of alternative actions can then be compared. Second, a citizensampling simulation requires a model of the social processes that would be maintained?

POSSIBLE LONG-RANGE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES

The tendency of our children on a few of the consequences which might result if citizensampling simulations becomes widespread in the next twenty to fifty years. All the consequences which take together would constitute a social transformation of major proportions. However, considering the many communications media now available, society is not likely to rearrange itself around a single newcomer. At least, not overnight. Therefore, the following possible consequences should be regarded as... as to the public. Background information would be available upon the request of the person using the "computer-based exploration of alternative futures." The probable consequences of each alternative could also be part of the programmed material. The course during the exploration. The teaching computer is a communications system. The "explorers", the explorer could use several "common trends" to suggest... the probable consequences of any action.

The present PLATO III system consists of a Control Data Corporation 1604computer and 70 computer-pictorial terminals 20 of which are operated at one time.

Citizen Sampling Simulations: A Method for Involving the Public in Social Planning

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