

**IS TODAY'S SCIENCE POLICY
PREPARING US FOR THE
FUTURE?: HEARING, 104
CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION,
JANUARY 6, 1995, NO. 1**

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January 6, 1995, No. 1 by Various

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104

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US FOR THE FUTURE?**

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Is Today's Science Policy Preparing...

HEARING
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

JANUARY 6, 1995

[No. 1]

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IS TODAY'S SCIENCE POLICY PREPARING US FOR THE FUTURE?

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1995

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 2318, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Robert S. Walker [chairman of the committee] presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. The Science Committee's first hearing of the 104th Congress will come to order.

I am also very pleased to be presiding over this first hearing in the 104th Congress of the Committee on Science. As I said yesterday, I have served on this committee for 18 years, and it is truly a privilege for me to be sitting in this Chair and to have an opportunity to hear from the distinguished panel of witnesses that have come before us today.

There is a little story about President McKinley, who was advised by the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks that the office should be abolished, since everything that could be invented had been invented. I often wish that we had agency heads that would display the Commissioner's enthusiasm for cutting government, but I also would not want that kind of lack of vision to be dominant in government. But I do hope that the Patent Office would be one that we would never have to abolish, because our society will have begun to die if we can find nothing more to invent and nothing more to improve our lives.

Americans have seen in the span of their lifetimes the Wright brothers fly, the arrival of the jet age, the moon landings, the invention of radio and television, digital technology and countless other advances in medicine, electronics and transportation. We should adopt as ours the goal of making the next century as exciting for the children born in the year 2001 as those who were born in the year of 1901.

In the recent past, it has become de rigueur for policymakers to chastise those in the private sector for focusing on the short-term bottom line at the expense of the longer term. In reality, those of us in the public sector have often been just as shortsighted, worrying about the current fiscal year without considering the effects of today's decisions on the future.

During this hearing, we will receive testimony from the heads of Federal departments and agencies over which this committee has jurisdiction.

It is my intention to focus on the long term, and I urge my colleagues to formulate their questions accordingly. We have asked our panel today to think about where today's policies are taking their respective departments and agencies into the future.

I should note that Secretary O'Leary was also invited, but had to decline because of personal business. She called me personally, would have liked to have been here, and we assured her that we will have her back in the future. That talk was a very good one, and she is prepared, I know, to discuss the long-term plans for the Energy Department.

[The prepared statements of Secretary O'Leary and Secretary Pena follow:]

Statement for the Record
by
Secretary of Energy Hazel R. O'Leary
to the
Committee on Science
United States House of Representatives

Impacts of Science and Technology: A Vision for the Year 2015

January 6, 1995

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, I appreciate the invitation to testify at your first hearing of the 104th Congress and regret that a long-standing commitment prevents my personal attendance. As we agreed in our recent conversation, Mr. Chairman, I welcome the opportunity to appear before the Committee in the near future to present my views on the subject of this hearing, or on any other topic involving the Department of Energy.

You have presented a provocative and important challenge to your witnesses in asking each of us to discuss how our Departments are preparing to meet the revolutionary changes projected to occur in the next 20 years. During that period--as over the past 20 years--science and technology will yield powerful, yet in many cases unpredictable, new developments that will affect our economy, national security, environment, and quality of life.

As one of the nation's major supporters of federal research and development, the Department of Energy has a wide range of extremely exciting R&D programs under way that hold the potential to contribute in important ways to a better future. The basic framework for our investments is established through our statutory missions in energy resources and end-use technologies; national security, primarily as it relates to nuclear weapons-related science and