

budget, which led to the cancellation of nuclear flight programs. The AEC/NASA Joint Office estimated that 1,300 employees at Aerojet, Lockheed, and Westinghouse were affected by the cancellation of the reactor-in-flight test project and the stretch-out on Nerva, the nuclear engine for rocket vehicle application.<sup>49</sup>

Reasons for the budget cut became apparent as the months passed. In April 1964, space journals devoted much attention to the Vietnam War. Although Defense Secretary McNamara had said no decision had been made to extend the war, he rejected any suggestions that the United States withdraw from Southeast Asia.<sup>50</sup> Tensions on Capitol Hill surfaced, engendered by Secretary McNamara's defense of his program to develop weapons. An attack by Congressman Laird on the military budget indicated that "guns and butter" was an issue of partisan contention. Laird challenged Secretary McNamara for using dollar amounts to justify the classification of each program as major:

Using this criteria, perhaps we should classify the war on poverty as a major new weapons system. After all, the requirements of a new weapons system all seem to have been met in this program. The cost is certainly high enough. And the war on poverty, like the weapons systems Secretary McNamara claims as new, is obviously a combination of already existing programs. And, of course, the program has been given a new name.<sup>51</sup>

Administrators of NASA and the AEC took steps to maintain the momentum of their programs and to cope with this threatening environment.

In January 1964 President Johnson asked Webb to review NASA's future space exploration plans with the object of relating hardware and development programs to prospective missions. The president also stressed the importance of coordinating research and development programs with the DOD and the AEC. Webb conferred with Seaborg and incorporated Seaborg's views regarding joint work between the two agencies into his report. Detailing the programs, their missions, and hardware, Webb laid out the panorama of development in which NASA was engaged, "a ten-year \$35 billion program aimed at developing a national capability for operations in space." Attempting to save the broad programs, he discussed the many missions being considered and their coordination with other agencies.<sup>52</sup>