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Government Impact Great on Us

THIS is an economic impact statement about effects government spending has on business, free enterprise and taxpayers.

It was not requested, and government might not want it, but the people have a right to know. Government has great impact on us, because nothing else is that big.

Federal government is the nation's biggest property holder. Uncle Sam holds title to 405,000 buildings, rents another 54,000, and owns one-third of the nation's land area.

Government is the nation's largest employer, with close to 15 million on taxpayers' payrolls. Government is the second largest employer in Oklahoma, exceeded only by the wholesale and retail trades. It is ahead of manufacturing.

The administration is trying to make a token reduction by eliminating 480 advisory committees to various bureaus on a wide range of topics and problems.

The new Department of Energy is expected to employ 20,000 people and cost \$10 billion a year or more. This agency won't produce oil, gas or energy, but it will have impact.

Federal government is the nation's biggest publisher, turning out thousands of periodicals annually from the country's biggest printing plant, which it owns.

Government last year ranked as the 10th largest advertiser in the United States, spending \$110 million to promote military recruiting and other objectives. This doesn't include large sums spent on public relations work.

Government is the nation's largest moviemaker, spending more than \$500 million a year to produce movies, TV shows, film strips and the like. No private firm comes close.

Economic impact of the new minimum wage law will be large. One study shows that it will result in loss of nearly two million jobs, boost cost of labor more than 4 per

cent, and increase prices to consumers by 2.7 per cent.

A Conference Board study estimates government regulations cost consumers \$130 billion a year. One program to reduce noise in industry cost \$32 billion, while costs of meeting existing standards for air and water pollution are predicted to total \$500 billion by the 1980s.

The national debt limit was increased to \$752 billion not long ago and the new budget is expected to show a deficit of \$63.1 billion. Total national debt and contingent liabilities are now computed at \$758 trillion, or \$151,000 per household.

Government also may be the nation's biggest deadbeat. General Services Administration reported in August that the administration was late in paying 73 per cent of its bills.

How big does government, in the form of elected and appointed officials and big spending, have to get before it becomes bigger than the people?