tives designated in its program.

- Its effect upon the operation and freedom of private domain of the economy.
- Whether other programs and practices could better handle the problems with improved cost effectiveness.
- The program's relations to government and private programs regarding the problems the program studies and how well the program or agency is evaluated according to pending Congressional legislation, existing laws, private work and if public effort will hinder or aid private efforts.

Besides tightening up inefficiency and waste in agencies, the bill seeks to give Congress a closer eye and watchdog responsibility.

Course starts slowed in '75, '76 same

While no one anticipated record-breaking openings of new golf facilities in the nation during 1975 due to economy-related circumstances, the total number of new courses, including additions to existing facilities, that opened for play last year was just 21 courses (8 percent) less than reported for 1974.

According to National Golf Foundation records, 256 new golf courses opened for play in 1975. Of these, 207 were regulation length layouts, 33 were executive type and 16 were par-3's. Operationally, 74 (29 percent) of the 256 new openings were private clubs, 149 (58 percent) were for-profit, daily fee courses and 33 (13 percent) were municipal. Comparative percentages for the 277 new facilities opening in 1974 were private clubs 22 percent, daily fee 64 percent and municipal 14 percent.

Many of the courses opening during 1975 went under construction two or three years ago as part of real estate developments. National Golf Foundation records reveal that of the nation's course openings in 1974 and in 1975, 52 percent were associated with planned residential developments or resort operations.

What's Happening in Golf Course Development. The fact that golf oriented residential developments have ground to a halt in the country does not mean golf course construction will do likewise.

Construction began on 132 courses in the United States during 1975. And the good news is that 40 percent of these new starts are additions to existing facilities. This denotes stability in the golf business.

It is quite likely that by the end of 1976 another 200 or more golf courses will have opened for play in the country. An acceptable yardstick for a privately owned daily fee or a municipal golf course is one 18-hole operation for every 20,000 to 25,000 persons in a given area not being served by such a facility. NGF's guide line for the development of an 18-hole private equity club is 200 to 500 families who are agreeable to paying their proportionate share of the development costs and annual dues in sufficient amount to cover cost of the club's operation.

Based on the 1970 census, the country as a whole now has 18 holes of golf for approximately every 22,000 persons. However, there are numerous states that fall far short of the aforementioned guide line.

The golf/real estate development boom of recent years, followed by financial difficulties of many of the developers, has caused serious operational difficulties for some of the golf courses involved therewith. Developers rarely sought consultation when planning a new town or golf course as a sales tool in getting a top dollar for home sites and usually hoped to dispose of the golf course as soon as land sales were accomplished. The state of the nation's economy also brought operational problems to some daily fee and private country clubs.

Development Outlook. While no great upsurge in new starts is expected in 1976, there are many indications of increased activity in certain areas of the golf facility development business.

The least active area will be golf oriented vacation homes and resort developments. It will take some time to clean up the situation created by massive overbuilding during the boom. Lenders are holding back until they get out from under past bad loans.

Growth in Municipal Courses. The federal government has approved $175,840,000 for the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation's (Dept. of Interior) use in implementing the nationwide 50 percent matching grant program for approved outdoor recreation projects initiated by the states. Fiscal year 1976 apportionments to the 50 states range from $12,179,558 for California to $1,491,123 for Wyoming.

Since the BOR program was authorized in 1965, $62,630,000 has been approved for almost 400 golf related projects. This amount of federal grant money, when matched by state or local political subdivisions, results in a total of $125,260,000 for golf courses, pro shops, maintenance buildings and equipment, etc. Many municipalities throughout the country have developed or acquired existing golf facilities with the aid of BOR matching grants. This practice is expected to continue in the immediate years ahead. The numerous changes in golf course ownership currently taking place should also stimulate many remodeling and renovation projects.

Upswing For Course Additions. The trend in construction of an increasing number of golf course additions, noted for 1975, should continue for some time. Analysis of NGF's inventory of the nation's golf courses reveals that 49 percent are 9-hole courses. Operationally, the percentages are private 43 percent, daily fee 55 percent and municipal 42 percent. Experience has shown it is usually far easier to raise capital for an established course already in operation than it is to finance a new facility.

Harry Eckhoff—NGF