

for. Probably no interpool payments would be called for, since most inventions concern one industry primarily; and with unlimited funds available the atmosphere would not be commercial or grasping. Some permanent groupings of associations might also be desirable. Inventions and researches foreseen before making, as promising large benefits to more than one industry, or to one or more, and to the Government, would, with easy-going comity, be financed by these jointly, and carried out in whatever laboratories seemed most convenient. So, too, with all inventive and research efforts—the work could and would be carried out in any suitable laboratory, whether of an association, Government, foundation, university or private corporation; especially in the early years the great existing corporation laboratories would be relied on. And the tryout and further development in practice could be in one or two firms only, by arrangement, with their experience freely passed on, save where it were expedient, as per ¶ 174-7 and 540, to concentrate the working.

[535] What should the licensed trade associations be like? Much like those of today (¶ 527), and like those which the British Government supports on invention (¶ 529), and like our semipublic associations of the NRA, 1933-35, and in part like the patent pools which we found to motivate something like 5 or 6% of R&D (¶ 416 ff.), and like governmental and other nonprofit laboratories. They should proceed from our present associations, and act in general on their own initiative, but with the Government able to insist at any point that the public interest be served, that misbehavior, especially monopoly, be prevented, and personal malfeasance detected and punished. A Government member or several should sit on the board of directors, an auditor spot-scan the books and correspondence, and inspectors frequent strategic spots and consider complaints, which will not be few, from the rivalry of firms.

[536] In addition to R&D and a patent pool, the associations could assume these functions: (2) promotion of the actual adoption of improved methods, from their own, foreign, or other origins, including the sharing of all *trade secrets*. (3) Patenting their own inventions abroad. (4) Defense against American patents by outsiders, domestic or foreign, which are bogus, or unjustified by their trivial contribution. (5) Purchase, however, of all outsiders' patents considered valid and useful. A fair and generous attitude would be shown, to encourage outside contributions, especially foreign, for whatever they may be worth in general, especially in view of the past productions of a particular source; unlimited funds would foster generous appraisals, and assurance of no tricky dealing would encourage trustful and early submission of ideas, and cooperation in their further development. (6) Standardizations for the sake of public convenience, e.g., for joint use of products, higher resale value, and readier competition. (7) Collection and dissemination of statistical and other information. (8) Liaison between industry and Government. (9) Better organization within the industry, e.g., by arbitration of disputes, and better outside relations, e.g., with suppliers. Any controlling of price or quantity should be specifically prohibited, and constantly combated. Much can be learned from the mistakes and successes of the NRA.