

ter and materials, technical assistance to science, industry, and government.

These are described briefly in a brochure which I have submitted for the files of the committee.

The consumer benefits ultimately from all of these programs, but I emphasize indirectly.

Perhaps a crude analogy will illustrate the point. A steel manufacturer supplies an automobile manufacturing company with steel. The latter shapes this steel through a series of complicated processes into the automobile that the consumer buys. Obviously, the consumer cannot use the raw steel, but he can drive the car from which it is made. We are more like the steel manufacturer.

We do have certain outputs that can be used by the consumer directly, and I will discuss these a bit later.

The second point I should like to make is that we are not by any means a major testing facility. Our testing program constitutes a very small fraction of our work—less than 2 percent of our technical activities. And even this small fraction is done mainly for other government agencies. For example, we do general tests on materials and components for such agencies as the General Services Administration, Department of Defense, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and other agencies interested in developing procurement specifications based on tested and evaluated materials and components. We also do some testing—but very little—of specific products for such agencies as the Federal Trade Commission for use by them in legal actions.

Moreover, since 1954, the Bureau has been operating under a policy of the Department of Commerce set forth in the Publications and Reports Manual of the Bureau as follows:

The testing of products for other Government agencies is done in response to specific requests from such other agencies and the work is considered in the nature of a confidential service to a client. The results of such testing, therefore, are not to be publicized by the Bureau. Reports on such testing are to be made solely to the requesting agency.

In this country, testing of direct interest to consumers is done primarily by private organizations. If the Bureau were to get involved in any significant product testing program, it would require a funding many times our presently available resources. As a matter of fact, it would transform us into a different type of organization.

During the late 1920's and 1930's, the Bureau did have a number of publications that were consumer-oriented. "Care and Repair of the House" is an outstanding example. There was considerable industry objection to the continuance, not to mention the expansion, of this type of publication and the activity it reflected.

Such publications were issued under the authority of our enabling act, 31 Stat. 1449, which authorizes "The compilation and publication of general scientific and technical data resulting from the performance of the functions specified herein or from other sources when such data are of importance to scientific or manufacturing interests or to the general public and are not available elsewhere * * *."

The key phrase here is "and are not available elsewhere." This was the primary basis for the industry objections.

With the foregoing qualifications, there are, nevertheless, several outputs and activities of the National Bureau of Standards that are