

generate publications of interest to consumers. Some examples are: "Doors as Barriers to Fire and Smoke," "Weather Resistance of Porcelain Enamels," "Thermal Insulation in Buildings," "Performance Criteria for Sanitary Plumbing Fixtures," "Effects of Thermal Shrinkage on Built-up Roofing," and "Building Construction and Maintenance."

A final point. NBS is a most important resource for consumer-oriented programs, but as I said earlier almost entirely of an indirect nature. If this resource is to be exploited, a translation or conversion mechanism must be developed. In other words, ways must be found to take the results of NBS research and convert them into a form that is useful to the nontechnical consumer.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Let me ask a question at this point, if I may. Do you think that is a difficult thing to do?

Mr. JENSEN. No, sir; it is not a difficult thing to do.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Would it take any major increase in personnel requirements?

Mr. JENSEN. I think that one would need to have reasonably practical general engineers who can work in the fields of chemistry, physics, and engineering, plus a small staff of technical writers and clerks.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. In other words, with a few people who are engineers and a few who are skilled technical writers, information could be converted which would be useful to the general public?

Mr. JENSEN. Some of the information that is developed at the Bureau, I think, sir, could be converted to useful publication.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Thank you.

Mr. JENSEN. Technical expertise is needed that can evaluate NBS research results in terms of their usefulness to the consumer and, having done so, put those results in a form that the layman can use. For example, testing of materials and components help Government agencies make purchase choices, but these agencies make bulk purchases based on tests of a few samples chosen under a sound statistical plan. However, the individual consumer cannot buy a refrigerator to test its performance as a guide to future purchases.

I shall be happy to answer any question, sir.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Thank you very much for a very thoughtful and well prepared statement, Mr. Jensen.

Mr. Jensen, am I correct, were you the Chairman of the Interdepartmental Study Group which studied the subject of Government information?

Mr. JENSEN. I was the Chairman, sir. Its original mission was more directly to determine whether or not the Government should look to the development of consumer standards; that is, standards for consumer products and commodities.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. When did this committee meet?

Mr. JENSEN. During 1965.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Did they issue a report?

Mr. JENSEN. The report was issued to the Secretary of Commerce, who I understand transmitted it to Mrs. Esther Peterson, Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Briefly and generally, what was the thrust of the report?

Mr. JENSEN. Our conclusions were two: (1) There is a wealth of information in the Government that could be of help to the consumer;