

I am just wondering in terms of structure, which is really the jurisdictional area of this committee. Apparently you agree with my thought that if there were one central office that all of this information could flow into, they would be charged with developing one product or one area at a time, converting it from technical language into useful laymanlike language and finding some inexpensive method for distributing it to the general public. Do you agree with that?

Mr. JENSEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Let me ask you a question on another related matter. You indicate, sir, that the National Bureau of Standards is bound by a policy issued by the Secretary of Commerce, who I think was Mr. Weeks, in 1954, is that correct?

Mr. JENSEN. I believe that is correct.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Now since that 1954 policy statement has there been any review of that policy?

Mr. JENSEN. I could not answer that question, sir. From our standpoint our publication policy now reflects that departmental policy.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Now, have you given any thought to the new freedom of information law reported by this committee and how it might affect the subject we are discussing?

Mr. JENSEN. We have, indeed, and I think with your permission, sir, Mr. Farrar could speak to that point.

Mr. FARRAR. Mr. Rosenthal, the Department is, of course, cognizant of the new freedom of information law and the fact that it becomes effective next week. We have been preparing procedures for internal use by the Department in order to be in full compliance with that new law.

The Department of Justice under the Attorney General has issued a memorandum explaining what it feels the implications of the law are and how it should be carried out.

I would say that this policy will certainly be carefully reviewed with a view to making such information available to the public as can be made under the new law.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Mr. Jensen, assuming that the Attorney General informed your Department that there can be and should be greater dissemination of information, have you thought about how you might comply with this law?

Mr. JENSEN. The Bureau has a very broad and well developed publication policy. Results of research really become meaningful only when they are put out to the people who can use them. I am not an attorney obviously, but just simply making available the information, the data the Bureau has, I think, would not fulfill the need you have described here.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. We need the conversion procedure somewhere along the line.

Mr. JENSEN. Yes, sir. It is a translation into meaningful terms for the consumer.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Now, for example, we heard from Mr. Kaplan of Consumers Union yesterday about some tests I think that NBS did on hearing aids for the VA, and that those tests and the results of those tests, could be understood by the general public, is that correct?

Mr. JENSEN. I think there is information that was presented to the Veterans' Administration that might well be informative to certain consumers.