

One would have to dig through it, the report to VA.
 Mr. ROSENTHAL. Under the freedom of information law, could you extract the pertinent provisions of your report to VA and just issue that to the public without further clarifications, without further editorializing?

Mr. JENSEN. I think that under the freedom of information law there is no question that this could be done. The question is whether we have the manpower to do it and whether the Department under the present policy would want us to do it or whether it should be by Veterans' Administration for whom the work was actually done.

We really are performing for them under a contract to them, and we would present to them the data, and they of course, can issue it any way they would like to.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Aside from the question of who has priority of interest in the results of the tests, is it generally your feeling that that information should be made available in an understandable fashion?

Mr. JENSEN. I think I would say that it is my feeling, yes, sir; information the Government has that would be of assistance to society should be made available to society.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. To the best of your knowledge, and I ask you specifically because of your chairmanship of the Interdepartmental Study Group, has anyone connected with the Study Group taken a special interest or taken the initiative in trying to move the information out of the archives and into the public domain?

Mr. JENSEN. I believe there is in the record, sir, some communication from Mrs. Peterson to Secretary Connor, in which this proposal was advanced. And the response from the Secretary or someone in the Secretary's Office, which agreed with the proposal, but which said that it was the feeling of the Department that identification and financing probably should be sought by the Office of the Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Did you pursue that at all and find out what happened with respect to his recommendations to her?

Mr. JENSEN. I saw the correspondence.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. After he bucked it back to her?

Mr. JENSEN. If there was anything further, I am not aware of it. I think that ended the correspondence.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. To do the job of disseminating the information after having it converted do you have any notion at all how much money it might cost to take at least what information you folks had and to get it out to the public?

Mr. JENSEN. I do not have an inventory of information that NBS presently has that might be translated. It would be very difficult. I think largely this would depend on the rate at which one wanted to make the information available. Frankly, sir, I do not think that very much would be produced if one agency, certainly one as small as the National Bureau of Standards, were singled out and say, "Let's get this for the consumer." I think there should be a policy of the Government, and I think one should establish priorities of things of greatest interest, greatest concern to the consumer, and work on those first.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Mr. Jensen, one final question, how would you respond if the President said to you: Mr. Jensen, what should we do to improve our policy with relation to disseminating information to consumers of tests that we make?