

Mr. JENSEN. I think I would respond very similarly to the way I responded to you. I think that a small office with this specific responsibility and with capable people could produce a great deal of information of considerable help to those who want to be helped or who are able to be helped.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Mr. Myers.

Mr. MYERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Jensen, you speak about your testing and so forth, and you make reference to certain generic items. Does this mean that you go into all brands in certain areas, certain items, or how do you go about this?

Mr. JENSEN. No. Our testing program, sir, generally is on the basis of a request paid for by another Government agency.

Mr. MYERS. Like GSA?

Mr. JENSEN. Yes. If, for example, General Services Administration wants us to work on the development of a test method for pencils, GSA would normally supply us with a statistical sample of the pencils, tell us what they want it for, and our technical people then, sponsored by GSA, would develop the test method.

Obviously you have to do some testing to develop a method including the machinery involved.

Mr. MYERS. The first thing then, you do not set the criteria; the agency tells you what criteria—

Mr. JENSEN. That is correct.

Mr. MYERS. But you then set up the prescribed—the actual test?

Mr. JENSEN. That is correct.

Mr. MYERS. And then you conduct the actual test?

Mr. JENSEN. And then we report back to the agency.

Out testing normally is only to the extent that is necessary to produce the test method.

Mr. MYERS. But you do not include all of the brands in a certain area?

Mr. JENSEN. I would say a reasonable answer to that is negative, sir.

Mr. MYERS. Then I think that I detect from your suggestions here, you would not want to—not endorse, but you do not want to mention brand names, either, is that right?

Mr. JENSEN. There would need to be very little, probably no, testing but a developing of information, translation of information, on the knowledge that exists in Government now. I am not talking about a testing program where one would say this brand is better than the other.

For example, there are terms used in the sale of refrigerators: Frost-free and automatic defrost, volume—what do these mean? How does each of these relate to the current requirement? What should one look for in insulation? What size for a particular family? These sort of things that would be helpful to anybody. I think it would be completely impossible, improper, for Government to undertake a testing such as Consumer Union does, for example, on the basis of brand name.

What we are discussing is gathering information that is presently available and putting it into a form that would be helpful to a consumer.

Mr. MYERS. Well, on page 3 of your prepared statement you make reference back in the twenties and thirties to the National Bureau of