

tions. The responsibility for the specifications and compliance of product with those specifications resides specifically with GSA. We are just one of the inputs to the specifications.

Mr. MYERS. If you give that answer, let's find out why GSA does not do all the buying.

Mr. COPENHAVER. This is a different question. Maybe I am mistaken. Yesterday we discussed about the buying of antifreeze. I see about three different things: You and the Bureau of Standards can establish a system for testing certain specifications of antifreeze, and then you pass these on to GSA who will bring them into the specification, shall we say, or write specifications, and then they are able to actually test a sample of a product in accordance with the system that you have developed for GSA to see if it met specifications, is that correct?

Mr. JENSEN. That is well put, yes, sir.

Mr. COPENHAVER. Do you also assist GSA in establishing the specifications?

Mr. JENSEN. Ours is an input to specifications. They will send the proposed specification to us and ask for comments by a certain date. If there is available at the Bureau an individual who is qualified in this field, we will send it to that individual.

If he has time or can find the time, he will examine it, and make his comments.

Presently there is no exchange of funds here. It is a contribution of NBS to GSA.

But even with these comments to GSA, there is no obligation of GSA to include our recommendations in the specifications. They have absolute authority in developing specifications.

Mr. COPENHAVER. Well, I know this is a question that should go to GSA and not you, but where does GSA get the technical information to develop the specification?

Mr. JENSEN. I think, sir, that should be directed to GSA as you suggested.

Mr. COPENHAVER. You do not know?

Mr. JENSEN. I do not. I am not sufficiently aware of their individual people.

Mr. COPENHAVER. One other question along this line which Congressman Myers raised. It has been a concern to me. I have noticed an increasing number of stories in the papers about it and I know Senator Magnuson and his committee has had some hearings on this matter concerning the flammability of at least certain material used in this ready to wear, this "no iron" type of product, and I have seen many cases of children and adults being burned.

This is in the hundreds or the thousands, not one or two. And I ask myself, how can this be? We have a law, and we have a Bureau of Standards supposedly doing some testing, and you did indicate to Congressman Myers that the Federal Trade Commission may actually ask you to do some testing, is that correct?

Mr. JENSEN. They will ask us to do such testing as is necessary to develop equipment and procedures for their enforcement testing.

Mr. COPENHAVER. I follow you.

Mr. JENSEN. There is proposed a strong amendment to the existing Flammable Fabrics Act, which incidentally was enacted into law in 1953, I believe for the express purpose of making it a criminal act to introduce into Interstate Commerce those items—sweaters that the