

at the University of Florida. A search of the available technical literature and other determinations showed that a commercial product could be made only by closely controlling raw material compositions and firing schedules. The company is now planning the establishment of a pilot plant based on the technical information provided to them.

Mr. REILY. Although I was only recently appointed Director of the Office which the act established, I have had an intense interest in it since the first days of congressional consideration and am especially pleased to be able to assist you in your deliberations on its first extension.

PURPOSE OF THE ACT

The State Technical Services Act has a high purpose, to promote and encourage economic growth by supporting State and interstate programs to place the findings of science usefully in the hands of American enterprise.

Although it has been less than 3 years since the President signed the act on September 14, 1965, I am confident that the committee will find evidence that this purpose has already been served.

ASSESSMENT

We can assess the program today in terms of acceptance by the States, particularly by their legislatures which appropriate part of the matching base, by State universities which contribute technical talent and university funds, and by individual and corporate citizens of the States whose user fees are now accounting for nearly one-third of the non-Federal support.

Evidence of this acceptance is shown by the services and benefits that already have been provided to business, commerce, and industry.

More than 1,500 technical-service projects involving technical information and referral services, field services, counseling, demonstrations, and seminars—all designed to update the skills and knowledge of participants—are being conducted by more than 200 educational institutions and nonprofit organizations across the Nation.

Industries such as construction, ceramics, fishing, food processing, forestry, metalworking, mining, petroleum, printing and graphic arts, stone, textiles, and woodworking are learning how to apply technology to improve their processes, reduce their costs, solve problems, and turn out new products.

These local programs, tailored to meet the recognized needs of principal industries in the States, have been made possible through the enactment of this legislation.

In addition, I think it is important to take into account the level of quality and enthusiasm of the people who have been attracted to work in the program.

As I have visited the States and met their officials in my Office, I have been continually impressed by the stature, the ability, and the dedication of the people actually doing the work.

Finally, reflecting on the importance which Americans attach to this new program, is the stature and hard work of the advisory councils—required of each designated State agency under the law—in which 761 leaders in business, labor, technology, education, and local government meet regularly to guide our State programs.