

STATEMENT OF CARL ELLIOTT, CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC EVALUATION COMMITTEE ON STATE TECHNICAL SERVICES; ACCOMPANIED BY EVERETT F. ZURN, MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE, AND EDWARD W. BISONE, STAFF ASSISTANT

Mr. ELLIOTT. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to have, if I may, a member of my public evaluation committee, Mr. Everett Zurn of Erie, Pa., sit with me, and I would like to have Mr. Ed Bisone, who is the staff assistant to our committee, sit with me also.

Mr. Moss. You may proceed.

Mr. ELLIOTT. Mr. Chairman, I have had the wonderful experience in the past 10 months of chairing a committee which you provided for in 1965 in the passage of this law to evaluate the activities and the operation of the law.

I have had an opportunity in that time to study the law and I think it is one of the best written laws that I have seen in my time around the Congress.

It is well written and well structured and it can be operated in such a way as to do a very great deal of good.

In my nostalgic reflections on the Congress, I am sorry I was not able to be here and help pass that law, I think it is so good. It is the only law that I know of that is designed to help the small businessman in this field of technology transfer, the subject that I was interested in when I was in Congress.

As a citizen, I can't be so much interested in seeing the business of our country get into fewer and fewer hands. I am not as interested in that as I am in seeing the doors stay open.

Now, this State Technical Services Act is a door opener. It would make in theory, and it is only in theory up to now I must say, by and large, it would make in theory the results of all the wonderful things that we are doing in research and development in this country, paid for largely by the Federal Government, as the chairman knows, about three-fourths by the Federal Government—it would make the results of that program fairly immediately available to small business.

Now, the average small businessman, as the chairman so well knows, is not able to have engineers and technicians, experts of various kinds around his business.

I can illustrate that best by saying in my own State of Alabama there are 22,000 small businesses and Alabama is still pretty largely a rural State.

I believe in Mr. Zurn's State, if I remember the figure, it was 85,000 or 90,000 small businesses employing, let us say, 50 or fewer people, and usually much fewer.

The more you break down the number employed, the larger the number of businesses get to be.

It seems to me that this is something that only government, by and large, can do. You, Mr. Chairman, and others who helped you, designed this program in 1965 to make it a local program as much as any I have seen, programs operated by people at the State and community levels, local people. They work on local resources.

And even in the very meager effort that has been made up to this point, and it has been much, much too meager—even with that