

In this case, a regional approach to State Technical Services has occurred similar to that which I understand was proposed when the Congress first considered the legislation.

With the support of the New England Governor's Conference, and after 2 years of dedicated effort by many individuals, the New England Technical Services Board has been organized and on February 27 of this year transmitted to the Department of Commerce its first regional program.

As was stated by the chairman of the board, Mr. Erskine N. White, Jr., executive vice president of Gorham, a recently acquired division of Textron, in his presentation to the public evaluation committee in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., "Let us acknowledge that there were not only complications, but readymade obstacles to the regional idea.

"We needed the positive direction—and later the support, the understanding, and the patience—of our Governors."

Yet the problems were solved and the obstacles were overcome with the result that the regional plan is in operation with financial support provided by specifically approved funds from each of six separate States.

The necessity for such a complicated procedure for funding arises from the fact that, quoting Mr. White:

Presently six separate contracts are required to fund or commit for our regional effort.

With the help of the State Technical Services office in Washington—and with your help if legislative revision be required—we look to the time when the regional mechanism may itself be designated and authorized to act on behalf of the region—perhaps initially as a seventh agency in the six-State area, but with longer range though less precise vision, perhaps as the agency within the region.

The enthusiasm and sense of commitment to the regional idea by all of those who have been involved in this effort testifies to the importance of this pioneering effort.

Questions have been raised by a few as to why the universities should be involved in a program such as State Technical Services.

Why should the activities not be conducted directly by a Federal agency or by private associations?

The clear answer is that universities approach their clients with objectivity and with no material benefit to gain.

Further, they know educational techniques and have resources in specialists in many professional and academic fields, strong libraries, versatile computers, and well-equipped laboratories.

These can be drawn upon as needed for special assignments with a particular business or industry. It would be extremely costly, and certainly uneconomic, for any agency to try to duplicate this reservoir of capability and talents.

While our association strongly favors the State Technical Services Act, we would urge amendments to the proposed extension. First, we feel that the act should be extended for an indefinite period and at the very least for 5 years.

A long-range commitment is needed to enable universities to "tool up"—establish the basic staffing and programming—to perform the job at the level needed and to provide the consistent followthrough which is essential to enduring effectiveness.

Secondly, we would propose a funding authorization of \$18 million for fiscal year 1969; \$30 million for fiscal year 1970; and \$42 million for fiscal year 1971 and succeeding years.