

UTILIZATION OF FEDERAL LABORATORIES

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1968

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to adjournment, at 10 a.m., in room 2325, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Emilio Q. Daddario (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. DADDARIO. This meeting will come to order.

This morning the subcommittee begins 6 days of hearings on the utilization of Federal laboratories.

The subcommittee's interest in Federal laboratories, and by this I mean both Government owned and operated, such as the National Bureau of Standards and those which are Government owned and contractor operated, such as Oak Ridge, stems from a number of reasons.

First of all, the Federal Government has a tremendous investment in laboratory facilities and trained manpower, and in a time of budget constraint such as we are experiencing now, we must assure that our available resources are utilized most effectively. Much research and development is needed to restore the quality of our environment; to cope with crime; to solve the transportation crisis, and to supply food, water, and shelter to a growing population. But we are coming to realize that our resources assignable to science and technology are not infinite, and that they do have limits. Yet, within these limits, we must accommodate the continuing demands for new research and development.

I am not inferring that every new agency or every new program find accommodation for all of its research and development within existing Federal laboratories, but I am saying we should look first to the expertise we already have developed. What the subcommittee is interested in is the policy guidelines that govern agency decisions in this area, and how existing competence can be applied to new areas of opportunity.

These issues are not new, but they do warrant the continuing attention of the Congress.

In a 1960 Joint Committee report about the future of the Atomic Energy Commission's laboratories, the AEC describes its laboratories as vital national assets that should not be considered the exclusive resources of the atomic energy field. This view was endorsed by the Commission's General Advisory Committee which added the thought that: