

UTILIZATION OF FEDERAL LABORATORIES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 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 10:20 a.m., in room 2325, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Emilio Q. Daddario (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. DADDARIO. The meeting will come to order.

This is the second day of our hearings on the utilization of Federal laboratories, and the subcommittee will hear from two distinguished Federal laboratory directors and from an able and thoughtful administrator of Federal research and development.

The achievements of the National Bureau of Standards and its laboratories are well known and need not be recounted here, but there is one particular attainment whose history is virtually a case study of Federal laboratory utilization. During the urgent days of World War II, the National Bureau of Standards developed the proximity fuse, and subsequently the scientists and engineers of this project spun off to become the present Harry Diamond Fuse Laboratory of the Department of Defense.

This indicates, I believe, that laboratories can be responsive to urgent national needs, and indicates also that a capability existing in one agency can be successfully redirected to other agency missions.

We are pleased, therefore, to have as our first witness Dr. Allan V. Astin, Director of the National Bureau of Standards. Dr. Astin is also the Chairman of the Federal Council's Laboratory Committee. The human resources of our Federal laboratories are a precious asset and, like other assets, their value to society depends upon how well or how poorly they are used.

Following Dr. Astin, we will hear from Dr. William B. McLean, technical director of the Navy Undersea Welfare Center. Dr. McLean is responsible for the development of the Sidewinder air-to-air missile system, and has received the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service.

Our final witness this morning will be Mr. Harold B. Finger, Associate Administrator for Organization and Management, NASA. Mr. Finger has had extensive experience as a research and development administrator and has been a frequent witness before our committee.

As the space program has matured during the last 10 years, it has produced a wealth of new knowledge, technology, and methods of management which have found application far removed from their original space-oriented purpose, and we are particularly interested in