

ing services so that everybody can be assured of means of coupling to the measurement system, and coordinating our measuring system with that of other nations.

The second part of this particular function is to provide data on the properties of materials which are of great importance to science and not available elsewhere.

These two activities involve us very much in the science of measurement with close coupling with everybody in the country who uses physical measurement. In this connection, we acquire various skills which have led to the Bureau being looked upon as a scientific service center to the rest of Government. This is the function which is changing, and which I would like to talk about briefly to summarize some of the things that are in my statement.

In the early days of the Bureau we were very much involved in industrial research and development. We were involved in such things as development activities on automotive and aircraft engines, and in the development of optical glass. As the Nation's technical competence rose we rapidly got out of these activities and concentrated on the measurement problems to insure compatibility of the many activities in the various technical fields.

At the same time the Bureau began early in its history to serve the Federal Government as a service center. I think one of the first tasks was the testing of material used in the old House Office Building.

We have also been used by other Government agencies as a central resource for research. The Navy Department used the National Bureau of Standards as its research center for 10 years before the Naval Research Laboratory was established.

The old National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics used the National Bureau of Standards for its laboratory resource for several years before it established laboratories of its own.

You referred to our part in the formation of the Harry Diamond Laboratories. The Navy Ordnance Laboratory at Corona, Calif., was spun off from the National Bureau of Standards at the same time.

More recently, our former Central Radio Propagation Laboratory became a key research component of the newly formed Environmental Science Services Administration.

These represent instances where other organizations use the Bureau for a particular job. The work develops to a certain stage, or they acquire facilities of their own, and then the activity is taken out of the Bureau.

We have similar things now in process. We are working with the General Services Administration and helping them set up in our facilities a laboratory to develop product acceptance test procedures and do qualified product testing for GSA.

At the same time we have a laboratory dealing with several aspects of motor vehicle safety research for the Department of Transportation. We expect that these two activities, as they mature, will probably ultimately be transferred to the sponsor agency.

We are also working with the Department of Housing and Urban Development toward use of our building research activities as a resource to help them in the solution of some of their problems. So, you see, in this way we provide a central service to Government, and it is a changing service.