

We sometimes play a similar role in relation to the industrial sector. Our staff will frequently get involved in and interested in some aspect of development which they find they cannot carry as far as they would like to and still remain part of the National Bureau of Standards. This is because we do not encourage or authorize the development of commercial or proprietary products. However, we can't and would not want to stop people from getting ideas.

Frequently when this happens, the individuals leave the National Bureau of Standards, either to go with a commercial company, or very often to set up their own companies. Examples of this have been Harris Laboratories, Rabinow Engineering, The Weinschel Engineering Laboratories.

In addition, we have helped organizations like the American Gas Association and the National Institute of Dry Cleaning in setting up laboratory activities of their own.

Mr. DADDARIO. Dr. Astin, you bring up the way in which the Bureau has been helpful in developing the first steps which have led to the creation of other agencies in Government and new industry. It would seem to me that the ones that have been established in industry developed in response to needs within our society.

What is your thinking about the way in which the Government agencies have developed laboratories after the groundwork has been broken. Is it your view that this is a healthy situation and that it should always work this way? Does your experience give you any indication as to how this pattern might, in fact, be improved? We are concerned about how we can, in fact, develop better laboratories, and I have some question really as to whether they should always be under and completely subservient to the agency which has a particular mission.

Dr. ASTIN. I am not sure that I could define any general rules for this. It is my view that any agency, particularly some of the new ones who think they need a laboratory, should explore the opportunities to have their work done in existing facilities before the decision is made to establish a new laboratory.

It is specifically for this reason that I mentioned the experiences with the Department of Transportation in the vehicle safety area and with GSA in the product testing area. I think, ultimately, these will become laboratories within the parent agencies, but what they did was to look first for some existing activity on which they could build before they start something on their own.

Mr. DADDARIO. Would your work as Chairman of the Federal Council's Laboratory Committee include some judgment on whether or not such laboratories are to, in fact, be established? We know that some laboratories are established only because the parent agency has the authority to do it under its organic legislation. We had some problems in this area, as you will recall, with the biomedical developments within the space program. We had some concern about whether this work should have been done in existing laboratories. We have kept after it over the course of time, and yet it did grow in a very strange way.

Dr. ASTIN. The interdepartmental committee has not looked at the problem of criteria for establishing laboratories. We have been very much concerned, however, with the elements which make for the effec-