

Mr. LUKENS. Mr. Chairman, may I ask permission to ask a couple of more questions?

Mr. DADDARIO. Yes.

Mr. LUKENS. What is your assessment of the fellowship program right now. It seems to have paid off very handsomely.

Dr. ASTIN. Our postdoctoral associate program, which is now about 12 or 13 years old, is in my judgment one of the most effective devices we have for maintaining the quality of our scientific staff. It is a program that brings into the Bureau 16 to 20 new Ph. D.'s each year. These individuals are selected for us by the National Research Council. They come in and work on any one of a list of projects we propose, and with any one of a list of supervisors they select from the list we have given. So, they have essentially all of the freedoms of a postdoctoral research fellowship in any university.

The appointment is for 1 year subject to 1 year renewal. This program does for us two things. It provides a continual flow through the organization of extremely bright people because they represent some of the best new Ph. D.'s in the country.

For example, this year for the 16 appointments we could make there were over 100 applicants, and the National Research Council certified to us around 50 of these as being well qualified. This means that we can select only a third of the very best of these.

Thus we have this flow through the Bureau continually of this bright talent.

It has another advantage, although this is secondary. We retain a few of these people, approximately a third, as permanent employees of the NBS. Those that came through the program first now represent some of our very best young scientists in the organization.

Mr. LUKENS. At the University of Colorado you also have a visiting fellowship program. Are there any plans to increase that?

Dr. ASTIN. Yes. All of these programs are limited now by lack of funds. Both of these programs essentially represent an investment in the long-term capability of the organization. When we are in a time of extremely tight budget, we have to defer some of these long-term investments, and we are in that state right now.

Mr. LUKENS. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you for your courtesy.

I would like also to go on record to say that you, Dr. Astin, are doing a very fine job, and the National Bureau of Standards has a fine reputation throughout the world. I think whatever help we can give to NBS in the furtherance of these basic programs and standards would certainly have my vote and my support.

Dr. ASTIN. Thank you very much, sir.

Mr. DADDARIO. You would like to hear that more often, wouldn't you, Doctor?

Dr. ASTIN. Yes, sir. I would like to hear it tomorrow. [Laughter] I am scheduled to appear before the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. DADDARIO. Will you keep this in mind?

Mr. LUKENS. That is not my committee. [Laughter]

Dr. ASTIN. "Change in Function of the Standing Committee." About this time a reevaluation of the functions of the standing committee of scientist-administrators was undertaken and resulted in a proposal, accepted by the Council, that the standing committee have