

Do you have a whole series of things that you would like to do?

Dr. ASTIN. Yes, sir.

Mr. DADDARIO. This position would seem to make it difficult to accomplish any of those.

Dr. ASTIN. Well, the point I was trying to make there is that we have been given a number of new responsibilities at the National Bureau of Standards, some by executive direction, some by legislation, and we are finding it difficult to get resources for these new responsibilities.

For example, the standard reference data responsibility given to us nearly five years ago now by the Federal Council for Science and Technology is being funded primarily through curtailment we have made in other activities in order to put some resources on it. We have been unsuccessful in convincing the Congress of the importance of funding this program at the level that would make it most effective for the Nation's scientific and technological effort. This country spends approximately \$17 billion a year for scientific research and development. Standard reference data, if adequate, would greatly facilitate this total activity. If it only improved it as much as a percent or two, which I think would be a very modest achievement to expect from a data system, the savings would be phenomenal, but we are now operating the standard reference data program at one-tenth the level we consider necessary to be effective.

Similarly, the Congress two and a half years ago gave us the responsibility to develop standard for automatic data processing systems, and to assist other Government agencies in the optimum or more effective utilization of automatic data processing systems. During the hearings preceding the enactment of that legislation it was shown that if that program were adequately implemented it would save the Government around \$150 million every year in its expenditures for automatic data processing systems.

The Government's expenditures totaled about \$3 billion a year, and it was conservatively estimated during the hearings that savings of a hundred and fifty million would be achieved. This is some 20 times what we think it would take in appropriations to NBS to operate the program—clearly a good investment, but we are nowhere near the operating level it takes. Because we consider these important programs, we have converted our resources to them to the maximum extent possible, but we can't do any further reprogramming of this sort without killing something equally as important.

Mr. DADDARIO. The inhibiting factors placed by the Congress is not anything we are trying to avoid. We have made it clear from time to time that these programs do reflect quality. From the standpoint of standard reference data program, we hope that we can impress upon the Senate the need to pass the bill already passed by the House.

The reason I asked you this question about the problems you have insofar as priorities are concerned is because it does appear clear that there are management problems and some of these management problems are related things that Congress has or has not done. We do not intend to infer that all the problems are in the executive branch.

I am pleased, Dr. Astin, you brought up these two points because without any question the effectiveness of your activities could be enhanced by support in these areas. They are good examples.