

going next. At that point the people at the Laboratory on their own initiative began looking for areas which were a better match to our talents. In fact, the support which JPL gave to the Army, as the Army began to develop interest in the Explorer effort, evolved naturally and was partly initiated by the laboratory itself because of the realization that some sort of a change in mission was necessary.

I think that holds true in other laboratories. In other words, if a laboratory is a dynamic laboratory and if it sees its mission coming to an end or changing priorities, the laboratory itself will initiate some moves to explore new areas.

Mr. DADDARIO. Oak Ridge is now spending about 13 percent of its overall funds in areas beyond its original mission, especially in the areas of desalting and civil defense. As they work into both of these areas they find themselves capable of increasing their development in many of our social and economic problems, and they find that these become important involvements from the standpoint of finance.

Obviously, this would be the case in many areas, and we do need to bring some direction to it. I would think that the use of existing laboratories should be at the heart of it. Yet we would have to come to a determination about which laboratories have this quality.

Dr. PICKERING. Mr. Chairman, you do pose a difficult problem. I understand from Dr. Weinberg that the AEC agreed some 5 or 6 years ago that Oak Ridge should explore some new areas. I think that should be the position of a sponsoring agency. The sponsoring agency, would have to recognize the changing mission and the potential of the laboratory in new areas.

To do this on a total Federal basis, I feel, would be very difficult. It would imply a total Federal catalog of laboratory capabilities which I am sure does not now exist. I am not sure it could ever exist because it would involve too much comparison of apples and oranges.

Mr. DADDARIO. Would you have much difficulty in privately coming to an assessment about these things?

Dr. PICKERING. We laboratory directors have opinions about our quality and the quality of some of our competitors.

Mr. DADDARIO. You don't have to go any further than that.

Mr. RUMSFELD.

Mr. RUMSFELD. Just to clarify something. As I recall, the chairman indicated that he felt discretionary funds should not be available to all such laboratories, but some should be selected out.

Mr. DADDARIO. That is correct.

Mr. RUMSFELD. Is it correct that you agree with that?

Dr. PICKERING. I note in my testimony that the reassignment in new missions is only when there is an assurance that the character and quality of a laboratory justify the new mission.

Let me point out that in order to go into a new mission the first step is to provide discretionary funds and encouragement to explore.

Mr. RUMSFELD. Are you endorsing discretionary funds only for that purpose?

Dr. PICKERING. No, sir.

Mr. RUMSFELD. Let's refer to it apart from transition.

Dr. PICKERING. Then I will endorse discretionary funds in general. I believe in a mission-oriented laboratory that the primary mission—

Mr. RUMSFELD. Do you agree or disagree with Mr. Daddario?