

Answer. The provisions of section 8 (a) and (b) of Executive Order 10521 continue to apply. Only Section 8(c) which specifically applied to the Interdepartmental Committee on Scientific Research and Development was superseded by Executive Order 10807 inasmuch as the ICSRD ceased to exist upon creation of the Federal Council.

*Question 11. Based on your experience, what advantages and disadvantages would you see in an office of Government laboratory management located at the level of or within the Office of Science and Technology? Such an office would be analagous to the present Office of the Assistant Director (Laboratory Management), in the Department of Defense's Office of Defense Research and Engineering.*

Answer. The basic premise for suggesting that multi-agency problems and programs including Government-wide utilization of resources be dealt with in the Executive Office of the President (by BOB, OST or a new agency) is that the Executive Office has a broader perspective for considering such matters. This premise may be generally valid, but practical considerations dictate a careful selection of the multi-agency matters in which the Executive Office becomes deeply involved. At present the Bureau feels it would be undesirable to establish an office of Government laboratory management in OST or elsewhere in the Executive Office.

There are several reasons for the Bureau's position :

a. That Government laboratory resources are sufficiently more important than various other resources to be given special treatment in the Executive Office has not yet been convincingly demonstrated.

b. The role that an office of Government laboratory management would play vis-a-vis the operating agencies is not at all clear.

c. It is very doubtful that such an office could be more effective in improving the utilization of laboratories (taking into account agency needs and funding) than could the agencies themselves.

d. If placed in OST, such an office would put OST in an operating role which is inappropriate for a staff agency for the President. Laboratory management and operations should be left to the agencies.

e. The proposed office could become another level of decision-making which could inhibit agencies from taking timely action.

As stated elsewhere, OST and BOB are now involved in a number of activities dealing with Government laboratory resources. Dr. Hornig has described for the Committee the efforts of the Federal Council's Committee on Federal Laboratories and other studies undertaken by OST. Perhaps the OST and BOB machinery can be strengthened to deal with interagency laboratory problems, but in our judgment such strengthening can be achieved without creating a special office to deal exclusively with in-house laboratory problems.

*Question 12. What inventory information about research and development has been collected as specified in part r of Circular A-76?*

a. *To what extent is part 5-d a blanket exemption for research and development that is available from the laboratories of another department or agency?*

b. *Have the review provisions of part 7-c caused any in-house research and development to be transferred to an outside performer?*

Answer. As stated in the Bureau's testimony, Circular A-76 technically does not exempt any Government commercial or industrial activity, i.e., an activity which is operated and managed by an executive agency and which provides for the Government's own use a product or service that is obtainable from a private source. We also pointed out, however, that decisions to conduct research and development or have the work performed by private facilities are usually based on factors other than those set forth in Circular A-76 and Circular A-49. These factors include considerations identified in the Bell Report and such basic issues as the need to maintain and enlarge the long-term strength of the Nation's scientific resources, both public and private.

Information included in the inventories required by section 7 of Circular A-76 generally relates to R&D testing laboratories where the service rendered is commercial or industrial in character.

Section 5-d of the Circular permits a Government commercial or industrial activity when the product is obtainable from another Federal agency. To the extent the suitable existing Government R&D facilities and capabilities are available it is expected, in the interest or economy, that such facilities will be used.