

The Bureau has no information that reviews which are conducted under the provisions of section 7-c have resulted in the transfer of R&D from in-house to private performers. As previously stated, we believe such determinations would generally be made on the basis of considerations extending beyond the policies specified in Circular A-76 for acquiring commercial or industrial products and services for Government use.

*Question 13. From the standpoint of effective agency management and full use of Government laboratories, what information about Federal laboratories should be collected and by whom?*

Answer. A good data base to provide adequate management information about Federal laboratories should interrelate the program structure, technical content, appropriations, budget activities, and accounting data so that essential information can be summarized on either a programmatic or institutional basis and integrated into the agency managerial system.

Information about laboratories, whether in-house or contractual, should be collected by the sponsoring agency and should be available there for internal program/budget reviews as well as cross-agency reviews by BOB and OST. In general, agencies already have systems in effect for collecting basic management data on their laboratories. We do not feel that the collection and centralization of this data in BOB or OST on a regular basis would be very useful. However, a good data base maintained by the agencies can be very helpful when a particular problem has been identified for study by the Bureau or some other appropriate group.

The question of centrally collecting general purpose or inventory-type data has been raised on a number of occasions. At this point we are skeptical that the benefits of collecting such centralized information will match the cost of collecting it, maintaining it, and keeping it current. Unless reasonable use will be made of the information, it will not be worth the effort.

Under instruction of the Federal Council for Science and Technology, the Committee on Federal Laboratories is developing a plan for an inventory. Current agency information systems are being examined to determine the specific information which should be included. The effort will be experimental so that its potential value can be evaluated before proceeding with a full-scale effort.

*Question 14. The Joint Committee on Atomic Energy published in its hearings on the AEC's authorizing legislation for FY 1968 an exchange of letters with the Bureau concerning Mr. Holifield's thoughts on the use of existing AEC laboratories for environmental pollution research (Part II, pp. 1285-7). He expressed his concern that:*

*"... we may lose irretrievable lead-time in establishing new organizations and facilities, which will result in wasteful duplication and fail to achieve the desired results. We can and must make optimum use of the qualified people and facilities currently available to us."*

Answer. The Bureau's reply of January 6, 1967 mentioned plans to make a detailed exploration of the possibilities identified in Mr. Holifield's letter as soon as the then current problems of budget preparation were out of the way.

Since then, what has the Bureau of the Budget done to furnish policy guidance to the AEC and other agencies with environmental pollution responsibilities about possible use of the AEC's existing research and development capabilities? What is the feasibility of the approach proposed by Mr. Holifield?

Details about the Atomic Energy Commission's efforts to undertake work for other agencies in the area of environmental pollution have already been described to you by AEC Commissioner Tape in his testimony on April 3, 1968, and in his letter to you of June 17, 1968.

Following our January 6, 1967 response to Congressman Holifield, the Bureau explored with the AEC the possibility of conducting particular programs of pollution R&D in the AEC laboratories. Since then, the Bureau has continued to monitor the activities and progress of the AEC on this matter, and we have informally advised and encouraged several of the agencies with environmental pollution responsibilities to use the AEC facilities whenever appropriate. The Bureau's efforts have occurred during our normal program and budget review activities. The Bureau has issued no formalized directive or guidance. There are at least two reasons for this. First, AEC laboratories are already rather heavily loaded with R&D projects in atomic energy and the opportunity for establishing non-nuclear pollution R&D programs in the laboratories has been limited. Second, we feel that AEC has vigorously pursued the course of action which Congressman Holifield recommended and that progress to date has been quite good.