

established budget figures, as is sometimes necessary to pursue the idea effectively.

It is, however, a partial solution to a difficult and important problem which bears directly on effective use of Federal laboratories for national goals. Additional flexibility would be desirable and it would be helpful if somehow Federal laboratories could be authorized to spend modest amounts to develop proposals in areas of national concern to submit to appropriate agencies. Such authorization would be made in recognition of the extreme importance of flexibility to the effective conduct of programs responsive to broad national needs.

The question of whether or not new laboratories should be created to respond to new missions or if the job can be handled within existing laboratories is complex. Certainly the contributions of existing laboratories should be considered as part of the determination. If Federal expenditures for R. & D. increase, I think one may reasonably anticipate that something like the present fraction will be utilized at Federal laboratories. In this case, it will be necessary to provide new facilities, either by expansion of present laboratories or by creating new ones. It would seem that the most suitable course will have to be determined on a case-by-case basis. To the extent that effective communications regarding capabilities of existing laboratories and agencies mission requirements exist, it will be easier to judge whether a given task may be carried out more effectively by expansion of activity at an existing facility or at a new laboratory. If a new laboratory is the more effective approach, consideration might be given to locating it at or adjacent to an existing laboratory since scientific exchange and common use of specialized facilities should have important mutual benefit.

Therefore, I repeat what I said earlier. To me, at the present time, the most effective process to foster greater interagency use of Federal laboratories, and, of course, at the same time to enable more informed judgments as to need for new laboratories, is the one of promoting that exchange of information that will pair the capability at a performing laboratory with direct interest of a responsible agency.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the prepared remarks. We would be most happy to answer questions which you may have and discuss the problem with you further.

Mr. ROUSH. Thank you, Dr. Tape.

Mr. Brown?

Mr. BROWN. I have no questions at this time.

Mr. ROUSH. Does counsel have questions?

Mr. FELTON. I have, Mr. Roush.

On page 8 of your prepared statement you refer to determining the most suitable course on a case-by-case basis. Who do you see as making this determination; would this be the agency, the Office of Science and Technology, or the Bureau of the Budget?

Dr. TAPE. I would look at this as a combined operation, and I can illustrate by a painful experience which we have had in making such determinations in the past. The question was the future of a particular laboratory when we realized that the program that it was pursuing, you might say, ahead of its time. The mission which it was trying to fulfill was so far down the road it might be they were working in the wrong direction. Should we try to maintain that laboratory at a low