

level of work expecting at some future date the needs would develop and then one could come back and pick up at that time the necessary higher level of activity.

Or should one close out the facility realizing that there was plenty of time for a change to be made in the future or a decision to be made in the future to start again.

That necessitated an internal decision in the first place, to try to assess the situation and weigh the merits of each alternative.

We then had discussions with the Bureau of the Budget and with OST. Furthermore we asked ourselves whether or not the particular capabilities of the installation might be useful to other agencies of the Government, not necessarily in the particular line of work that we were following, but related lines perhaps in defense or perhaps in NASA.

We asked other agencies of the Government to investigate the facilities of that laboratory, the work which was going on there, the capabilities of the staff, and after a rather long period of time we all arrived at a decision that transfer to another agency was not appropriate and the laboratory should be closed down as far as the AEC's program was concerned. It was not a unilateral action on the part of the agency. We do involve the various agencies of the Government.

Mr. BROWN. Could I expand on that? Is it possible for you to identify the laboratory and the work?

Dr. TAPE. This was the Canel Laboratory in Connecticut, near Middletown. The work there was development, principally what I would call hardware development of a very advanced space-electric system that could be used in the future in powering electrical propulsion for space vehicles, and so on. We felt that the program which they were pursuing was a good solid technical program. It was an expensive hardware development program, but we were seemingly out of phase, if you will, with the mission as contrasted with our development at the time.

We had much, much more time to develop the hardware than we had anticipated some years earlier. So as a result of this, we decided that the prudent action was to terminate that type of development on the hardware side, and continue research and development in technology which was more appropriate within a national laboratory than it was within the particular contractor-operated facility we had there.

I might add as a note which I think is encouraging, that this facility was ultimately surplused. It was taken over by private industry and it has a very active, going program. As far as I know the community has not suffered and the capabilities and the facilities have been preserved.

Dr. ENGLISH. I might mention as a point of interest that this particular laboratory was originally established in the mid 1950's, to be a major center for the development of nuclear reactors for propelling aircraft. When that program was finally abandoned, it was converted, because space technology at that time was becoming important, to a laboratory for making use of the same facilities and the techniques and equipment for the space electric power program. It had a history of being established for one purpose and being converted to another purpose, but we eventually did have to close it down completely.