

With respect to some of the specific areas of your interest, I am not sufficiently equipped nor knowledgeable enough about existing Federal laboratories to comment fully. As far as police thinking is concerned, however, I can provide you with some viewpoints.

At IACP headquarters we have a Research and Development Division and the Director of this Division in the last several months has been in touch with a number of the better known Federal agencies whose technical expertise might be applied to police work. This is a rather new venture for us, however, and we have only begun to scratch the surface.

To reiterate, we do need and desire the unusual analytical and other technical capabilities of Federal laboratories to supplement the resources of existing crime laboratories. For instance, the Atomic Energy Commission could provide us with extremely valuable help through their knowledge of radiation, x-rays, and nuclear bombardment. It is most important for the police to determine the age of inks, documents, human remains and any number of other physical properties. We need the means to discover contraband on someone's person or in vehicles plying our highways. The government has done a tremendous amount of work in the fields of fabrics, clothing and protective gear which might be applied to police uniforms. This, I believe, has been handled by the Army and Air Force. The Bureau of Standards could be of great assistance in evaluating and testing police equipment such as vehicles and their components. Certainly, any number of Federal agencies have devised equipment and vehicle automotive techniques which could assist police in getting longer life from their vehicles.

A police officer is burdened with all kinds of heavy equipment as he walks his beat. We need an analysis of this equipment to make his burden lighter. Instead of adapting civilian vehicles to police work, we need someone to devise a better car or patrol vehicle which would be particularly helpful to police. We need a means of electronically bringing to a halt motor vehicles being driven at dangerously high rates of speed. These are some thoughts that occurred to us when we received this invitation to testify, and I am certain that your deliberations have covered other areas of need.

I do believe that we could well use the information centers which some Federal laboratories have established. I believe there is a great need, as I said before, to bring out for the benefit of the police data which must exist in the Federal government. For instance, I was told privately sometime ago that the Army has been testing the various tear gases being used by police. There is a great deal of concern among police and the public generally as to the possible lasting harmful effects of such products as Chemical Mace. We receive inquiries on this constantly, but we have neither the means nor the funds to analyze this substance, and therefore, we are unable to allay the fears of police and the public alike. If the Army has information of this type we should like to know what it is since the tear gases are being used throughout the country. I say this is an example of what could benefit the police if such information centers were set up.

As I have indicated, I believe it is not only feasible but desirable that the capabilities of existing Federal laboratories be used when they coincide with the research needed by police departments. Close working relations could be created among the Federal laboratories and police departments by using the Research and Development Division of the IACP as the conduit. We represent the great majority of the police executives in this country and IACP is the only organization of its kind in this country. Being non-profit, educational and professional in character, we would be eligible to fill this role.

From what I have said already, it is clear that Federal laboratories could do much to foster the setting of standards for police equipment and technical methods and procedures since police agencies in this country are necessarily independent under our form of government. It has been the practice that they experiment and adapt equipment and techniques independently. This, of course, is uneconomical and unrealistic. One of our main problems is disseminating data about equipment usage and techniques which may have been developed in a single department. The proper approach, of course, would be for a police agency to be selected for a pilot project for the determination of standards and then have this information disseminated properly. Once again I would recommend the IACP as the appropriate pipeline for this activity.

I believe that once an appropriate institute is established for the marriage of Federal science and police work funds should be made available to all appropriate government laboratories for training specialists in scientific and technical aspects of police work in order that they might have more knowledgeable research application of existing science to the police establishment.