

field when requested and when the request appeared to have merit. Such requests have come from crime laboratory experts, the medical and legal communities and the ballpen industry. In addition, a great deal of interest has been manifested by the dye industry.

The Laboratory has encouraged and supported research and the publishing of scientific papers and panel discussions at this year's meetings of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences; The American Chemical Society, Middle-Atlantic Region; the Second National Symposium on Law Enforcement Science and Technology and will present a paper before this year's meeting of the International Association for Identification.

These papers and panel discussions treat the advances made in the Laboratory in handwriting identification, in non-destructive analysis of ballpen ink as well as the possible utilization of modern computer technology, alpha excited X-ray fluorescence and other space science developments in article physics and image clarification in the Forensic Sciences.

The Laboratory is assembling a national register of Forensic Science talent. Active investigation is under way to identify areas of medical research which hold promise for relieving some of the more critical needs of the Forensic Sciences. These include the problems of making more specific and more reliable determinations of source of certain categories of physical evidence than is now possible, such as: bloodstains, hairs and handwriting.

Highly qualified medical researchers have been identified and their interest stimulated in these directions. These individuals constitute a resources uniquely qualified to attack the problems referred to and are prepared to capitalize upon and extend an impressive body of medical research developed technology as soon as funds are available.

(a) The Forensic Sciences Laboratory differs from the FBI Laboratory in that the Forensic Sciences Laboratory's principal purpose is to provide and develop an academic base for the Forensic Sciences.

PROPOSED FORENSIC SCIENCES CENTER

THE PROBLEM

There are serious and growing needs in the administration of justice which relate to the courts' increasing dependence upon the expertise of the Nation's crime laboratories. This dependence has been intensified as a consequence of the law's increasing recognition of the inherent limitations of confessions and needs within the crime laboratory milieu. These factors, detailed in the professional studies listed in the footnotes * below may be summarized as follows:

1. Significant numbers of laboratory experts lack adequate education and training. Particularly lacking are means and programs for continuing education and updating in their fields.

2. Certification requirements for expert witnesses are nonexistent in most forensic science disciplines.

3. Discoveries in other disciplines, such as the biological and medical sciences, industrial technology, engineering, space sciences, nuclear science and others, have found their way into the crime laboratory only to a very limited extent. For example, none of the vast new knowledge of blood factors learned since 1902 has been applied to the problems, of identification of dried blood strains. What is known concerning the organic composition of hair has not been applied to the identification of source of hair evidence.

4. Many working in crime laboratories cannot keep up to date on newer methods. Standardization of testing methods and dissemination of these methods are either nonexistent or inadequate for the profession as a whole.

* 1 President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, *Report—The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society* (1967).

2 Task Force on Science and Technology, President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, *Task Force Report: Science and Technology* (1967).

3 Methods Committee, American Academy of Forensic Sciences, *Study No. 7—Bloodstains* (1965); *Report on Hair Examinations* (1963); *Study on Inflammables* (1954).

4 American Academy of Forensic Sciences, *Confidential Report to Document Examiners* (1966).

5 Criminalistics Section, American Academy of Forensic Sciences, *Report on Drugs and Examinations* (1961); *Results of Study No. 3—Firearms* (1961).