

uranium isotopes for research purposes is permitted under license.

Another survey of Western German scientific research resources is now under way at the request of the Bonn Government to determine whether a need exists for the establishment of applied research institutes to serve small and medium-sized manufacturers and processors in West Germany. The survey is being conducted under the sponsorship of the Economic Cooperation Administration by a group including representatives from the Southwest Research Institute, the Stanford Research Institute, Battelle Institute, and the Armour Foundation. It was indicated that similar surveys might be undertaken elsewhere in Europe at the request of several other governments.

Infrared Absorption Spectra

New NRC Committee Established

The National Research Council has announced the formation of a new Committee on Infrared Absorption Spectra which is intended to take over the work of the Punch Card Committee of the Symposium on Molecular Structure and Spectroscopy of Ohio State University. The latter committee has been actively keeping track of papers on spectroscopic subjects in the published literature. The new committee is under the chairmanship of Wallace R. Brode, associate director of the National Bureau of Standards. Other members are E. Carroll Creitz, National Bureau of Standards, secretary; R. Robert Brattain, Shell Development Company; Bryce L. Crawford, University of Minnesota; Robert R. Hampton, U. S. Rubber Company; Lester E. Kuntzel, Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation; and James D. Stroupe, Rohm and Haas Company. Arrangements have been made for the committee to work in close collaboration with the National Bureau of Standards. Attempts are being made to solicit a rotating fund for use in reproducing infrared spectral and bibliography cards.

The expressed function of the committee will be to study and develop arrangements for collecting and distributing spectral absorption data on organic and inorganic compounds. More specifically the work of the committee will involve: (a) design of a punch card system for presenting and distributing infrared absorption data in both graphical and tabular forms; (b) devising and implementing methods of collecting the desired spectral data; (c) directing and supervising evaluation of the collected spectral data, appraising their quality and devising means for checking the reported observations and the making of new measurements when the available data are unsatisfactory or conflicting; (d) preparation of a bibliography; and (e) supervision of the printing of punch cards and other forms of record. The accomplishments of both the old and new committees include the preparation of a bibliography on infrared and related subjects of about 8000 papers with arrangements through ASTM Committee E-13 for abstracting 28 current publications so that the bibliography may be kept up-to-date, the collection of about

450 spectra and processing of them in preparation for printing, and the building of a file of chemical compounds covered in the literature.

Communications concerning the committee's activities should be addressed to the Secretary, E. Carroll Creitz, National Bureau of Standards, Washington 25, D. C.

New RDB Policy Group

To Encourage Use of Scientific Talent

The Department of Defense has announced the formation of a policy group within the Research and Development Board which will work closely with RDB chairman Walter G. Whitman in formulating and executing policy, with special emphasis on utilizing the talents of the many scientists and engineers from industry and the universities who stand ready to assist the Board in its work. The internal policy group will include James A. Perkins, executive associate of the Carnegie Corporation, Robert C. Gunness, manager of the research activities of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, and Edwin A. Speakman, former Naval Research Laboratory physicist, who has been on the RDB staff since 1949 as executive director of the Committee on Electronics.

Radioisotopes

Two Firms to Study Commercial Production

The Atomic Energy Commission has accepted two proposals for private firms to study, at their own expense, the commercial feasibility of manufacturing, processing and selling radioisotopes. Contracts have been signed with Bendix Aviation Corporation of Detroit and Tracerlab, Incorporated, of Boston. The long-range goal of the two projects is wider commercial use of radioisotopes. The first step will be to study the AEC's isotope processing program and to investigate the possibilities of building and operating reactors to produce radioisotopes. After full security requirements have been met, reactor data in this field will be made available to small groups of scientists and technicians from Tracerlab and Bendix. Experts of the AEC and its contractors will assist them in carrying out their studies. Both firms are to make their reports and evaluations directly to the AEC within a year. These contracts are in line with the Commission's policy to encourage privately-financed groups to study the possibilities of taking over some segments of the atomic energy industry for commercial development. However, due to the urgency of the AEC expansion program, the Commission is not able at this time to consider additional proposals for this type of investigation.

Plutonium Production

GE-AEC Contract Extended 5 Years

A five-year extension of the General Electric Company's contract with the Atomic Energy Commission for operation of the plutonium-producing Hanford