

terests of the United States". According to an announcement made on November 5th by Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks, the office was established at the direction of the President on the recommendation of the National Security Council.

"In this cooperative effort at self-protection," Mr. Weeks said, "we will undertake to revitalize the voluntary system of carefully evaluating the export of scientific, engineering, and other information of a non-statistical nature which, while unclassified, might nonetheless be prejudicial to our national security if it fell into unfriendly hands. Such watchfulness would not take the form of censorship. It would instead be a matter of exercising intelligent, reasonable precaution to make sure that in the necessarily free exchange of scientific information we do not provide nations whose interests are inimical to our own with material which they could some day use against us. The key to success of this program lies in the cooperation of all who develop and disseminate our national knowhow."

The Secretary has appointed R. Karl Honaman as special consultant and director of the new office. Mr. Honaman, an electrical engineer, is on loan from the Bell Telephone Laboratories in New York City, where he is director of publication. He will work with a committee of Commerce Department information, security, and administrative officials in carrying out the functions of the office.

Criticism of the Administration's action in establishing the Office of Strategic Information was promptly offered by the American Society of Newspaper Editors in the form of a report filed by the Society's Freedom of Information Committee. Terming the move "the most serious threat to freedom of information that has developed in the Eisenhower Administration," the committee said that, regardless of the voluntary devices employed, "a proposal under which the government is going to 'help' the American press decide what non-classified information it ought to print and what it ought not to print is a species of censorship of the most offensive and dangerous kind."

NAS-NRC Activities, 1953-54

HIGHLIGHTS of the varied undertakings of the National Academy of Sciences and National Research Council for the period July 1953 to June 1954 have been summarized by S. D. Cornell, NAS-NRC executive officer, in the bimonthly publication *News Report*. During the year some four hundred meetings were held, several thousand fellowship and research grant applications were evaluated under programs in which the Academy-Research Council plays a part, about fifty NAS-NRC scientific and technical publications were printed, and a large number of permanent and ad hoc committees and other groups conducted special studies and prepared advice on scientific matters for government agencies and private organizations. These and other activities were carried out during the

one-year period with a total expenditure of approximately \$5.5 million, of which somewhat more than thirty percent came from private grants, contracts, and endowment income, while the remainder came from federal government sources. In addition, Dr. Cornell notes, the expenditure by other agencies of more than \$2 million of private funds and more than \$6 million of government funds in the support of science through fellowships, grants-in-aid of research, and by basic research contracts was directly guided by advice rendered by NAS-NRC.

AIP Advisory Committee to NBS

THE National Bureau of Standards faced a crisis in the spring of 1953 as a result of a controversy over the Bureau's position on certain types of battery additives. At the height of the tense situation, Secretary Weeks decided to attempt to resolve the controversy by seeking the advice of an Ad Hoc Committee composed of representatives of the professional scientific and engineering societies. L. A. DuBridge was appointed the American Institute of Physics representative of this group, which popularly came to be called the Kelly Committee since M. J. Kelly of the Bell Telephone Laboratories was its chairman. The committee was singularly effective in resolving the crisis through a series of actions and through recommendations contained in its final report of October 15, 1953. For example, its work in no small measure led to the reinstatement of A. V. Astin as Director of the Bureau.

Among other things, the Kelly Committee advised that the Bureau focus most of its attention on the activities of primary Bureau interest and serve appreciably less as an organization which operates installations for other governmental agencies through use of transferred funds.

The legislation establishing the Bureau of Standards provides that the Secretary of Commerce have a five man Visiting Committee to furnish him with advice on the activities of the Bureau. The Kelly Committee recommended that the advisory system be augmented by the formation of a set of Technical Advisory Committees whose members would be selected by the eight leading professional societies and which would report to the Director of the Bureau in order to advise both him and his staff on matters which the committees and staff consider worthwhile. This plan was accepted enthusiastically by Secretary Weeks and the Bureau staff and has now been placed in operation.

Since many of the most important activities of the Bureau lie in the various fields of physics, it is evident that the committee appointed by the AIP will play a central role in the new advisory structure. This group consists of J. W. Beams, D. M. Dennison, E. M. Purcell, J. A. Bearden, M. Deutsch, R. B. Lindsay, F. Seitz (Chairman), Hale Sabine, and R. A. Sawyer. L. D. Marinelli of the Radiological Physics Division of Argonne National Laboratory is also serving with the