

Mr. Warner

QUESTIONNAIRE
on
DISSEMINATION OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

Section 901 of the National Defense Education Act of 1958 provides that: "The National Science Foundation shall establish a Science Information Service. The Foundation, through such Service, shall (1) provide, or arrange for the provision of, indexing, abstracting, translating and other services leading to more effective dissemination of scientific information, and (2) undertake programs to develop new or improved methods, including mechanized systems, for making scientific information available."

It appears that there are a number of agencies, both in and out of Government, engaged in all or part of the functions in which the National Science Foundation has a directed interest. It is proposed to determine to what degree these functions are integrated, the amount of supervision or coordination exercised by the National Science Foundation, and to determine which, if any, of these functions are not being performed in an adequate manner through lack of personnel, facilities, funds or authority.

In these days of intense competition between the countries of the Western world and those of Communist affiliation, it is vitally important to take all reasonable steps to insure that American scientists are provided with the best scientific information of that available throughout the world. It is with this purpose in mind that information hearings are being scheduled before the House Committee on Science and Astronautics.

The following questions have been directed to individuals considered authorities in this area. Their answers are intended to serve as a means of determining the proper scope of hearings and a list of witnesses.

Name of individual interviewed: _____

Organization and summary of duties:

1. (a) Are we able to obtain copies of all significant scientific papers published outside this country? Qualify your answer.

(b) What agencies collect and by what means?

(c) Is there adequate authority and assignment of responsibility for the collection of scientific documents?

2. (a) What Government and private agencies are engaged in the indexing and abstracting of scientific documents received from outside this country?
 - (b) Are our efforts adequate and uniform in quality?
 - (c) How is information concerning the documents indexed and abstracted provided to appropriate American scientists?
 - (d) How much time does it take, on the average, to index, abstract and inform the American scientific community of the existence of foreign scientific publications?
3. Prior to World War II many of the most important of the world scientific reports were published in English, French or German. For this reason a large percentage of American scientists are proficient in either German or French.
 - (a) In your opinion, what percentage of the important current scientific treatises are available in one of these three languages?
 - (b) If available in German or French, is there, in your opinion, any need for translation?
 - (c) What countries are producing scientific publications of interest to American scientists in languages other than English, German or French?
 - (d) Are translation services adequate in this country?

- (e) How long, on the average, does it take to obtain a translation of a document worthy of translation?
 - (f) Are there adequate means available, at reasonable cost, for the individual scientist to obtain a copy (original language or translation) of a foreign scientific document of which he becomes aware?
 - (g) What should be done, if anything, to improve translation services?
4. Should there be a National Science Library, as such?
5. Does the Library of Congress fulfill the role of National Science Library? Explain.
6. (a) In your opinion, what are the greatest weaknesses in the overall program of acquiring, indexing, abstracting, translating and disseminating of scientific documents?
- (b) What steps for improvement do you suggest?
7. What other individuals (give agency or organization) do you consider to be outstanding authorities in this field?

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Remarks:			
<p>Hearings are starting next week I believe.</p> <p>If <u>CIA</u> gets called, questions would presumably follow lines of the attached questionnaire.</p> <p>Paul A. Borel</p>			
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STATEMENT OF
PAUL A. BOREL, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL REFERENCE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS

_____ JUNE 1959

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