

the expanding space activity. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Board maintains liaison with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and other appropriate government agencies, and works with various State and regional groups interested in these developments. Operating under an annual budget of around \$70,000, the Board continues to function as a promotional, advisory and information-disseminating agency developing guidelines for the states to follow in setting up nuclear and space programs, training courses, and informational seminars and conferences. A five-man executive committee, elected at the Board's annual meetings, oversees the operations.

It is noteworthy that in 1955 each of our states was asked to contribute \$5,000 to the operation of the regional nuclear effort; and today, no state contributes more than that amount, although the program has expanded many-fold.

SINB acts as a representative of its region when nuclear and space considerations which could affect members of the 17-state compact, arise in Washington. SINB's approach to federal agencies is, in itself, an important contribution to the region in nuclear and space development. For example, SINB has established long-term working relationships with major government agencies, assuring the 17 states of practical accessibility to expert guidance in various fields. The Board itself does no actual research, but brings together technical, legal and industrial experts as working teams and as advisors on specific projects, both on a regional basis and on programs within a given state.

Within the past year, every state within this Conference was the site of at least one program or activity carried out by the Southern Interstate Nuclear Board. As recently as August 12, 52 specialists from areas of land, sea, and air transportation, insurance, health, physics, engineering design, port operations, and allied fields, met in Baltimore as part of the initial planning session of a SINB study on international traffic of radioactive materials. This project represents the first comprehensive study concerning the multiple influences of radioactive and fissile materials shipments to and from foreign ports. The Southern Interstate Nuclear Board was selected by the Atomic Energy Commission to conduct this study because there are more southern ports cleared to receive radioactive shipments than are represented in any other part of the nation, and because the statutory, interstate structure of the Board lends itself to a kind of pilot evaluation that will give a reliable index to the national situation. The findings, recommendations, and conclusions of this study will be applied in directing policy and programs for the national efforts in this important and growing area of