

commerce. The principal concern is to advance development of a viable market for reprocessing nuclear reactor fuels in the United States in the face of growing foreign competition.

As the SINB has completed its organizational programs and advanced work in stimulating the establishment of sound regulatory programs, its activities have been pointed increasingly in the direction of economic development and expansion through the utilization of nuclear and space technology. Approximately 150 specialists in many disciplines and science activities from throughout the nation have served in the past 18 months as advisors and consultants to the Southern Interstate Nuclear Board. Through this technique of pooling talents and resources, the Board has focused outstanding capability on a multiplicity of problems and opportunities for our states—individually and collectively. Studies show that more than 100 state functions are being affected by the problems and opportunities associated with nuclear and space technology. You have before you a recently published report on a study completed under an AEC contract by the Southern Interstate Nuclear Board on the pasteurization of fruits by radiation. The Appalachian region was the subject of an in-depth study by SINB under ARA contract, testing the success of applying nuclear and space technology to conventional industry. We expect that the SINB will be of increasing service as the Appalachian program expands.

One of the most successful and far-reaching projects of SINB during the current year has been the commercialization of irradiated wood-plastic combinations. The outgrowth of this study has been the early development of various kinds of wood products, including furniture, sporting goods, flooring, building materials, boat decks, and others, from this revolutionary new material—a wood-plastic combination of great strength and hardness which resists warping, shrinkage, scratches, burns, and abusive treatment while retaining the beauty of wood.

The Southern Interstate Nuclear Board has completed a major study in the health field for the Atomic Energy Commission by evaluating state radiological health programs, and more recently by undertaking through a Public Health Service contract preparation of a special radiation guide. In addition to the operational projects carried out under various federal contracts by the Board, the agency has sponsored a number of information-education efforts, including projects on “nuclear application opportunities,” and utilization of space technology. Scheduled for October is a meeting in Oklahoma, in cooperation with the Council of State Governments, on radiation interests in the workmen’s compensation field. The total attendance at all SINB meetings held on