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May 9, 1947

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Dr. Frank B. Jewett, President,
National Academy of Sciences,
140 West Street,
New York 7, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jewett:

As you know, the question of the trade standards and simplified practice activities was brought up when I first came here and therefore had only a very scanty knowledge of the whole matter. I rather hoped that it would not be acted upon until I had a chance to learn my new job a little better.

Now that I have done so I have expressed to Mr. Harriman and Mr. Foster a feeling of complete neutrality on whether the work should be continued in the Bureau of Standards. I told Mr. Foster particularly that I thought it an appropriate function of the Department of Commerce to aid business in this way, but that I would abide entirely by the Secretary's decision as to where it should be within the Department. Several months ago it was decided to keep it here for the time being, with the suggestion that the two Divisions involved be consolidated into one as they are so very small. You know there are only forty people involved, clerks and all. This consolidation will be made effective July 1. I am going to ask the staff involved to put more effort on helping with our duties on Federal Specifications work next year as I feel that this service to government procurement officers is more important.

We hope to cooperate fully with the A.S.A. work during the coming year even more than in the past. I am leaving May 18 for the Pacific Coast to return June 8 and hope that this absence does not cause me to miss your conference with Mr. Harriman. Thanking you for your kindly interest in all Bureau of Standards matters, I am,

Sincerely yours,
Edward U. Condon
Director

E. U. Condon, Director.

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