W. S. Bussey Chief of the Office of Weights and Measures National Bureau of Standards

Mr. Bussey commented that Mrs. Nelson's first public appearance as a State official in her present capacity was at the California State Weights and Measures Conference last October. She has been constantly in touch, as well as rather deeply involved with weights and measures problems, ever since that time.

One significant occasion was a public hearing on proposed tolerances for certain prepackaged frozen food items. According to the current weights and measures concept, these proposed tolerances were rather ridiculous. Through the efforts of Mrs. Nelson, coupled with the efforts of numerous county weights and measures officials, and some representatives of industry (including a representative of the national organization which represents frozen food packers), they were successful in obtaining a delay in the promulgation of these proposed tolerances. Up to this time, insofar as I know, no official action has been taken to promulgate these tolerances.

He also commented that Mrs. Nelson had been cooperating with county weights and measures officials in their effort to secure needed amendments to the State weights and measures laws in California.

He commented that Mr. Frassinelli, in his former capacity as Food and Drug Commissioner in the State of Connecticut, had been the head of the weights and measures program in that State for several years.

He also commented on the necessity of adequate technical training at the State level in the weights and measures area, and that the Office of Weights and Measures of the National Bureau of Standards has established a training laboratory in Washington wherein key State people will be trained to become teachers at the State level. Dr. Arch Troelstrup sat in on one such local training school in Missouri that is an example of such schools that have been and are being conducted by the Office of Weights and Measures.

The States of Washington and Missouri recently enacted completely new weights and measures laws, based upon the Model Law recommended by the National Conference on Weights and Measures. The Missouri Department of Agriculture had encountered rather serious opposition regarding the section requiring bread loaves to be in standard weights. The opposition came from the baking industry, which industry took this matter into the courts, attacking the constitutionality of this section of the law. It was upheld, however. The consuming public seemed to show very little interest in this matter, even though it is very important to consumer legislation. It was only the efforts of diligent public officials, including the Commissioner of Agriculture and the Attorney General, that resulted in the law being upheld and enforced.

Mr. Bussey related that many products in package form are <u>not</u> required by Federal law to be adequately labeled. The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act covers only those commodities in these fields. Many state laws do require that <u>all</u> products in package form be labeled with essential information, including a statement of the quantity of the contents. However, quite a few States have no such laws.

He pointed out the fact that we have many ill advised, as well as antiquated laws on the statute books of the various States. I mentioned one old law in Georgia that stated that a fresh egg is any egg layed in the State of Georgia. I indicated that careful attention should be given to this type of legislation and that necessary action should be taken to strike it from the statute books.