

FROM: University Relations
The University of Toledo

Betsy Gross
531-5711, Ext. 675

November 9, 1967

FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

The University of Toledo will be one of eight participants in the Ohio Technical and Business Services Program for the dissemination of technical information to business and industry, according to Dr. William S. Carlson, president of the University. The program is jointly supported by the U.S. Department of Commerce and by the State of Ohio through the Ohio Board of Regents. The federal program is the result of the State Technical Services Act of 1965 which enables the federal government to make grants to states in support of programs to make better commercial use of the latest findings of science and technology.

Technical and business services is a three-fold program including (1) technical information centers, (2) a referral service network, and (3) a continuing education program. The TU program will begin with a silicate technical information center and the referral service network.

The Silicate Technical Information Center already is an established center operated by the TU Silicate Institute, which was established in 1952. Under the Technical and Business Services Program its activities will be expanded to provide scientific and technical information on a broad basis to Ohio industries. Services to be provided by the center will include technical reports, abstracts, digests, bulletins, textbook reviews and other similar scientific, engineering and business information.

The referral service network at the University will work closely with

(more)

industries in 13 northwestern Ohio counties, according to Dr. Archie N. Solberg, vice president for research at TU. The purpose of this service, Dr. Solberg said, is to provide contact between the nation's research resources and the specific needs of industries.

From a specially compiled technical information sources catalog, the TU office will be able to locate advisory, consulting and research capabilities in any desired field, Dr. Solberg said.

Planning of the referral service network program was done by the staff of the Ohio Board of Regents working with the Ohio Department of Development and an advisory committee from the participating universities. Dr. Solberg is a member of the advisory committee and planned the northwestern Ohio program.

The central office of the Technical and Business Services program is located at The Ohio State University. The central office already has compiled the State of Ohio Referral Index (SORDEX) to facilitate the location of all Ohio research capabilities. Consultants, research laboratories, bibliographic service, etc., will be made available through the SORDEX program.

"This program is needed because the traditional means of transferring technology are no longer adequate. The volume of new technology generated through research together with the rapid pace of the economy have developed a technological gap that must be bridged through a more adequate communication system," Dr. Solberg said. "The problem is no longer that of the generation of new knowledge, but the communication of that knowledge to potential users who can apply it to the development of new products, processes and techniques for industry and business," Dr. Solberg added.

He explained that the national goal of the State Technical Services Program is to keep America ahead of the rest of the world in research and in the application of new knowledge to the production of goods and services. "Without new knowledge,

(more)

industries and businesses become technically obsolescent," Dr. Solberg said. Although the Ohio program is starting on a modest basis, he added, it should grow into a sizeable operation and should have a strong influence in maintaining the business and industrial economy of Ohio.

In announcing the program, President Carlson emphasized that it is a part of The University of Toledo's effort as a state university to serve the needs of the state.