



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT

An ASTD Member Information Service

Government Awareness and Your Responsibilities

In the mid-1960's, one of the nation's leading business consultants remarked to a gathering of business executives in Washington, "Gentlemen, you better recognize and accept the fact that the Federal government is here to stay, and you better learn how to work with it."

He went on to challenge his audience by asking, "Do you really have a right to criticize government for its mistakes if you are not willing to share your expertise and know-how with government?"

These observations are every bit as pertinent today as they were 10 years ago. All ASTD members have two governmental challenges before them—helping to develop a solution to our productivity problems and learning more about how they can apply their expertise and know-how to all three levels of government—federal, state and local—as the governmental bodies address themselves to solving our human resource problems.

In Washington, there is the National Productivity Commission. And ASTD is working with this group so the professional training and development viewpoint will be known as problem areas are attacked.

Also, the Administration is making efforts to shift many federal human resource programs back to the state and local levels. So again, ASTD members will have to determine what their input will be at these levels of government for the many human development programs.

The Society has committed the organization to assist you with government affairs programs. First is the "ASTD Caucus With Government" in November. This is a first for ASTD, but to meet its objective requires your participation and followup.

Another tool is the government relations handbook which will not only contain "how-to" information for working with government but also directories of key federal and state officials directing human resource programs.

One factor most people who have not had much involvement with government fail to recognize is that these officials welcome your assistance and views about their proposed projects and legislation. They, too, want to do a good job; they, too, prefer success to failure; and they recognize they don't have all the answers to a given subject. But if people knowledgeable in a given area don't offer their views and expertise, then government officials must proceed with what facts and figures are available.

A U.S. Senate staff member recently remarked after learning of ASTD's interest in the productivity problem, "It's encouraging to know a professional group like this is interested and willing to help."

Pearson Named to Committee

James W. Pearson, ASTD executive vice president, has accepted an invitation from U.S. Secretary of Labor Peter Brennan to serve on the National Manpower Advisory Committee's Subcommittee on Training. He will serve in this capacity through June of 1974.

In addition to this position, Mr. Pearson serves on the Education and Manpower Development Committee and the Subcommittee on Manpower Policy for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He is also chairman of the International Training and Development Organization Steering Committee.