

## THE ADEQUACY OF TECHNOLOGY FOR POLLUTION ABATEMENT

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 1966

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT,  
*Washington, D.C.*

The committee met, at 10:10 a.m., pursuant to notice in room 2325, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C., Hon. Emilio Q. Daddario (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. DADDARIO. The meeting will come to order.

The testimony which the subcommittee will hear during the next 4 weeks will concern the adequacy of technology for the abatement of environmental pollution. The problem of pollution represents the other side of the bright coin of American civilization. On one side we see the benefits of the application of science and technology in our standard of living, our national security, our economic growth, and our prestige, among nations. But, on the reverse of the coin we must recognize the unexpected and unwanted consequences of a technical society—such as urban problems, transportation complexities and most importantly, the threat to the quality of the environment.

I believe at the outset that the question is not one of either curtailing industrial and economic progress or suffering the decline of air, water, and land quality. It seems clear that we should not, and need not, settle for anything less than wise usage of all our resources for the optimum benefit of the economy and all our citizens. This means that the restoration and preservation of air and water are a logical adjunct to the building of cities, the providing of electric power and personal transportation, and the development of agricultural and manufacturing businesses.

Sober consideration of the waste-products problem is a responsibility of us all, but it is not an issue which should be treated in an atmosphere of crisis where blame is placed or ill-considered remedies hastily enforced. These hearings are designed to make clear to the Congress the technological problems of pollution abatement and research needs. It must be realized that any definition of pollution is relative to the specific use among various contending needs of society, to which a particular stream or area is dedicated. Quality criteria and standards permit meaningful goals and timetables to be established and new technology to be developed for pollution abatement. These hearings are designed to anticipate the problems of the future. One thing that is clear is that we will have to emphasize greater reuse of our resources in the future.