

what that means, I don't know. The man I am sitting with, my colleague and dear friend for 20 years, Mr. Robert E. Jones from Alabama, I say for the public record here not because he is here, but by far he knows more about all aspects of water utilization and preservation than any other Member of the Congress.

I have a very brief statement, Mr. Chairman, and I ask unanimous consent to be permitted to extend and revise it. I am not an engineer, but my undergraduate background was chemistry and physics. My dreams years ago was to be a biochemical researcher. I do have a very keen interest in this problem.

Your opening statement was as pertinent and concise as I have heard. It is an insult to the testimony of what I hoped to be able to say, which is not nearly as complete as your statement.

A greatly expended research and development effort is needed if we are to solve our water pollution problems in an effective and economical manner. Our best efforts with the limited funds available have done very little more than to assess the magnitude of the problem and to demonstrate the harmful effects of pollution.

I think now we have at least an awareness across the country on the part of the people and a better understanding of the technical people and sanitation engineers and other hydraulic engineers on the need for more work in this complex and complicated field of pollution. I think one reason we are in this situation is merely through inadvertent neglect to water in its original relatively abundant form was taken for granted as much as we take air next to us for granted. Yet, if you are deprived of air for a few minutes, you are dead. You can live a little bit longer without water, but water is more essential than food and you can get along without food more than you can without water. Because we have this carryover, we think water is abundant. We don't realize that we have to do something about it. Too, in other areas where shortages have occurred whether it be in gasolines or propellants, fibers, food, you name it, you have always found a substitute or synthetic; but we find out now we cannot do anything with water. You can't find a substitute for it.

You can't do anything with this water. You can't squeeze a drop of water out of a glass of water, because we tried. We have one-half of all the peat in the States in my area. You can have cheap power if you can burn it, but you can't squeeze water out of it. The main problem is not that we can't do anything about it and that we shouldn't. We know that we should and can. The main problem we have now been stimulated to an effort and we are approaching that point now, stimulated to a point to exert an all-out effort. Any research requires an all-out effort if you apply human ingenuity long enough, and that means you can solve the problem of thermonuclear energy. You will solve the problems of space, or auto service mechanisms, complicated and fantastic alloys that didn't exist a few years ago, heat resistant alloys. All the matters of which you committee members are far more familiar with than we are.

In water, we are using processes today—they are mechanical improvements or refinements of basic processes of water pollution abatement. I am talking of municipal facilities for human waste, primarily. They are merely mechanical improvements in refinery or basic technics used half a century ago.