

The increasing pollution of our waters is costing us dearly—dearly in dollars and cents. The economic loss is incalculable. Each and all of us is affected by this enormous loss and cost.

In recent years we have mounted a national campaign aimed at water pollution control and abatement. The Federal Government, in cooperation with State and local governments, has launched a broad program for the construction of treatment plants. Federal funds have been provided for research and development in pollution abatement.

The overall program is commendable and certainly a step in the right direction. We have made progress.

But, unfortunately, our pace remains too slow. We are not keeping up with the growth and the enormous demand. I sometimes think we are trying to win the race with a Model T.

For example, millions of dollars are being spent to construct conventional treatment plants which do not do the whole job. It is well known that conventional waste treatment processes fail to eliminate at least 10 percent or more of the suspended solid wastes and other organic matter and also fail to remove metallic salts and certain other chemical pollutants.

In addition, I want you to remember this figure, 1,940 cities in the United States have combined sewers which commingle sewage and storm waters and permit untreated sewage to bypass treatment plants and discharge directly into our watercourses. These sewers flush about 65 billion gallons of raw sewage annually into receiving waters.

It would cost Mr. Blatnik about \$30 billion to eliminate combined sewers in the United States.

For instance, we go to Rochester, Mr. Conable, in your area in that city alone it would cost half a billion dollars to correct the situation of a combined storage sewage which was built in about 1900.

Fortunately, the seriousness of the combined sewer problem was recognized in the Water Quality Act of 1965. The act established a 4-year program of research and development grants to demonstrate new or improved methods to eradicate the combined sewer problem. For this purpose, Congress voted an annual appropriation of \$20 million for fiscal years 1966 through 1969.

The Government Operations Committee recently issued a report entitled "Separating Storm and Sanitary Sewers in Urban Renewal." The report was based on a study by the Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Power.

Recommendation No. 2 of the report states as follows:

The combined sewers demonstration grants program should be expanded and accelerated, and increased emphasis should be given, through both laboratory and field research and engineering studies, to develop improved methods of controlling pollution resulting from the existing combined sewer systems.

If we are to make real headway in pollution control and abatement, it is imperative that we step up this research and development program.

The same is true with other aspects of pollution control and abatement. It is becoming increasingly clear that conventional waste treatment processes are not doing the job. New processes, then, must be evolved through accelerated research and development programs.

In recent years, water pollution control and abatement has become recognized as a worthy and desirable national objective. But it still