

THE ADEQUACY OF TECHNOLOGY FOR POLLUTION ABATEMENT

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1966

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

The committee met, pursuant to adjournment, at 10:08 a.m., in room 2325, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C., Hon. Emilio Q. Daddario (chairman of the subcommittee), presiding.

Mr. DADDARIO. This meeting will come to order.

We are pleased this morning that our witnesses represent the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Secretary Wilbur Cohen, Mr. Stern, and Mr. Gilbertson. We are happy to have you here, gentlemen. Having set forth the ideas of this committee's objectives yesterday, I need not repeat them today. You have been in touch with our staff and know what the purpose of these meetings are, so we can just continue.

I understand, Mr. Secretary, that you have another engagement later in the morning.

Mr. COHEN. I might say it has to do with nursing homes and I have a lot of Members of Congress that seem to be interested in that aspect.

Mr. DADDARIO. Proceed.

STATEMENT OF MR. WILBUR J. COHEN, UNDER SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I thought it would be best if I put my statement in the record and attached to it I am submitting for your consideration a document which the staff has prepared on the health hazards of community air pollution. I will then summarize just briefly for you a few points that I think are the highlights of my testimony if that is agreeable with you.

Mr. DADDARIO. Yes, please.

Mr. COHEN. In my testimony I bring out the important economic facts that the best estimates indicate that the annual economic losses resulting from uncontrolled air pollution are estimated to be in the neighborhood of about \$11 billion. This is a very high cost and we think that it indicates the need from an economic standpoint to do something about this important problem.

To me, in addition to the arguments about how air pollution interferes with visibility and imperils air and highway transportation and pollutes soils and corrodes buildings and damages clothing and home furnishings, one of the most pointed arguments about the effects of