

with a program. I think this is a very mature piece of legislation, because it does specifically spell out the requirement that all of the pollution aspects must be taken into consideration when we look at the solid waste problem. In other words, in looking at the planning questions, in looking at the research and development questions, the legislation spells out the interrelationship that must be taken into consideration.

Furthermore, we and the States and localities and industries involved, are expected to also take into consideration all the planning and development questions involved, and these, I think, are very important ones that need to be taken into consideration.

Another factor in what I have termed the maturity of approach, is that the act makes it clear that we are talking about solving the solid waste problem in terms not only of just simple disposal questions *per se*, even though that may be safely done. Here we are looking at ways in which we can reduce the generation of wastes at their sources, to possibly recycle them back into production, to increase the salvage of useful items, and to convert these wastes then into beneficial uses for mankind.

Then finally another aspect of the mature approach is one which has been touched on; namely, the need for somewhat larger scaled operations in order to do a decent job. The tendencies toward fragmentation of this problem among very small geographic or political units has been a deterrent, we believe, in the application of the technology that is now available. A very important part of the Federal program involves efforts to encourage a larger scale approach, a regional approach in some instances. In metropolitan areas which regionally approach the situation, a better planning job can be done, and improved technical resources can be brought to bear, because they are dealing with a larger operation. They can scale up the facilities and, therefore, obtain better economies, cost benefits, and so forth. These indicate some of the important points of maturity in the legislation itself.

The Office of Solid Wastes was established in the Public Health Service only about 8 months ago, and since that time as you can appreciate we have been busy, engaged in establishing the fundamental program and the major areas of activity. I think I can report that we have successfully launched activities in the five major areas that were projected by the Congress in the act.

We have initiated a research program through the grants and contracts mechanism, and we are tooling up our in-house research. We have initiated a program for demonstration of new and improved solid waste systems.

Here we are talking primarily about shortening the time gap between laboratory bench-scale types of ideas and their application on a community level. And this certainly is an important consideration when we try to work out the change or upgrading of technology in any field. Mention has been made earlier of the need for better professional trained manpower, and we have initiated four training programs at universities. We went to the limit of the funds this last year, and we have additional good applications which will be funded during the coming year.