

(Additional questions and answers for the record may be found in vol. II.)

Mr. DADDARIO. Yes. We will have our staff get together with you so that we can fill in all of those gaps. I want to thank you all and wish you would thank Dr. Cohen for having come this morning. This committee will adjourn until Tuesday next, same place, at 10 a.m.

(The prepared statement of Wesley E. Gilbertson follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT BY WESLEY E. GILBERTSON, CHIEF, OFFICE OF SOLID WASTES, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Mr. Chairman, I welcome the opportunity to present here a status report on the adequacy of technology for solid waste pollution abatement.

Few problems of environmental health technology more greatly need the interest and concern of the Subcommittee and, indeed, of the entire Nation.

The Federal Government now has under way a national program to advance the technology of solid waste management under the Solid Waste Disposal Act. This legislation was adopted by the Congress last October to provide the Nation with the means of preventing a crisis in solid wastes in terms of health hazards, scenic disfigurement, and the physical enormity of the job of safely disposing of vast daily accumulations of garbage, trash, junk, and other solid wastes from municipalities, industry, and agriculture.

The solid wastes problem reached major proportions during many years of public indifference. Most people had virtually no interest in solid wastes unless their refuse was not regularly collected, or they happened to live near an open dump with its hordes of disease-carrying insects and rodents, or an overloaded incinerator with its noxious stench and smoke clouds. Most people forgot about solid wastes the moment they were out of sight. Although huge amounts of public funds were spent for waste collection and disposal, little public or private money was invested in those years of indifference in solid waste research or even in such improved disposal equipment as was available.

So the history of solid wastes, in sharp contrast with what occurred in other areas of environmental contamination, is a history of technological neglect down almost to the present time. Until the Federal Government committed itself to a national program, the annual expenditure for solid wastes research was about \$250,000 as against multi-million-dollar outlays for research and development relating to air and water pollution abatement.

Because of the lack of research and development, solid waste disposal methods common throughout the United States today represent little advancement beyond the technology of the garbage pail, the trash can, the open dump, and the obsolete incinerator. The technological void which the national program was devised to fill is truly great. We must be prepared for a long-term effort to fill it.

A problem which has been building up for decades cannot be solved easily or quickly, and its solution will depend on continuing public support for an effort requiring substantial funds over a long period of time. The national program calls for an assignment of public resources for scientific training and research and field-scale investigations and demonstrations in solid waste management. This resources assignment, moreover, is to be made not by the Federal Government alone, but by local, State, and private agencies as well. This means that support for the program not only must be sustained, it must be nationwide.

Fortunately, the American people today are concerned as never before about the quality of their environment. I think we can count, therefore, on their support for a program which, in time, can fill our backlog of needs in solid wastes. Surely we can count on their support as people become more universally aware of the degree to which our 19th century solid waste disposal practices not only deprive them of aesthetic values in their environment, but threaten their health as well.

In evaluating health hazards, it sometimes is necessary, and often wise, to follow the dictates of common sense or what the medical scientist might call diagnostic intuition.