

With systems analysis and many other aspects of the solid waste problem we would like very much to have—we greatly need, in fact—the assistance of industry. Certain industrial concerns have acquired extensive know-how in the use of systems analysis techniques. We also need the help of those segments of industry which have been involved in the development of closed systems for recycling air and water in space craft. Industry experience with aerospace technology might well be used in the development of waste recycling systems, including solid waste systems, on earth.

Industry also has competence, probably not available elsewhere, in many other areas where new solid wastes technology so urgently needs to be developed. In problems associated with the reduction of wastes at the point of generation, for instance, industry should be able to make an outstanding contribution. Industry stands to gain when wastes are reduced, and we know that a number of companies today now incorporate waste control equipment into plant design for reasons of economics or public policy or both. Their number, unfortunately, is not yet great enough to represent a really substantial contribution to solution of the national solid wastes problem.

The Federal role in the private sector, it seems clear, is to provide incentives for and otherwise to stimulate the spread in industry of practices for solid waste pollution abatement. The national program cannot directly underwrite the demonstration of industrial hardware or finance industry research. But the program can and will buy and its grant recipients can and have bought research and technological assistance by contract. The Gainesville, Florida composting project is a case in point. Here, it will be recalled, industry not only is represented in the nonprofit corporation set up to supervise the work but has the major role in the entire operation.

There are several ways in which industry should find participation in the national solid wastes program either rewarding or desirable. Access to research and development findings stemming from the national program will be compensatory, of course, particularly where the information is useful in helping industry meet its own waste management problems. The most tangible reward, however, might occur as a significant expansion of the waste management industry. Solid wastes technology is going to advance as the program progresses. Each advance will mean new business for industry.

Government, of course, can help to accelerate the application of improved solid waste technology by specification in the equipment it buys and the installations it builds. And as time goes on and the national program moves forward, public awareness of needs for high standards in waste management will increase and with this rise will come growing recognition by industry that it too must join more fully the national effort for solid waste pollution abatement.

This Subcommittee has indicated a desire to be informed of the interdepartmental cooperation engendered and necessitated by passage of the Solid Waste Disposal Act. I should like to report that the Office of Solid Wastes has made arrangements with the Department of Housing and Urban Development whereby State solid waste planning activities and 701 planning grant activities will be coordinated through the State agencies primarily concerned with each of these programs. We have signed a formal memorandum of agreement with the Department of the Interior pertaining to our mutual responsibilities under the Solid Waste Disposal Act. I am prepared to submit a copy of this memorandum for the information of the Subcommittee.

Before closing, Mr. Chairman, I want to summarize what, it seems to me, the Federal Government ought to be expected to accomplish within the national solid wastes program as conceived by the Congress in the Solid Waste Disposal Act. The government can provide leadership and stimulation for innovation in solid wastes management and it can supply resources, not elsewhere available, for research and demonstration of improved technology. The government can help, under the national program, in acquiring knowledge where needed. It can assist in showing that prototypes of new waste management systems can provide human health protection against solid waste pollution. The government also can assist communities and States in making the best use of existing technology for solid waste management.

But the national program authorized by the Solid Waste Disposal Act can do no more than help demonstrate the desirability, even necessity, of using