

lack of adequate dilution in our streams. This is what I refer to by just increase in the amount of pollution.

Perhaps another way of indicating this is that even with a process which is 90 percent effective, if we have a 50-percent increase in population, we are actually putting 50 percent more waste load into our streams.

Mr. DADDARIO. This fits in, doesn't it, with the idea that when you propose programs of this kind a complete program ought to be conceived rather than a 90-percent or an 80-percent or 70-percent one because the growth of population is eventually going to increase the quantity of pollutants if they are only partially treated. In a sense the funds expended can be categorized as a wasteful expenditure because they have not done their job fully. If we continue to do this always on a 70-percent, 80-percent or 90-percent basis, will we ever solve this problem?

Mr. CONABLE. Mr. Chairman, will you yield at that point? Actually, we have to strike a balance. There is a possibility that we might be able to get better and more economical treatment later, but we have to assume that if we can reduce pollution by 50 percent with existing techniques, we should go ahead and do what we can now rather than waiting for a day which may never come. Isn't this generally the consideration that we have got to take as legislators? We can't allow ourselves to be paralyzed to the point where we do nothing just because we might have a better technique sometime in the future if we apply substantial sums for research now.

Mr. DADDARIO. Recognizing the point Mr. Conable makes that we cannot always afford to wait, you would have to come to some judgments as to what areas need some treatment right away and what areas could wait, wouldn't you?

Dr. WEINBERGER. Well, let me try and answer the multiple question. One, there can be no question that we have got to have treatment technologies available that would, as I point out, result in total pollution control. This is, frankly, approaching a 100-percent removal of the impurities which man adds to the waters. This will be required in many locations and this will be required increasingly as this country continues to grow.

There are a number of processes which are available now upon which one can build. It is always a problem in terms of engineering, at what particular point one goes ahead with construction of facilities and certainly, the planning should be such that one can always add on technology to provide answers which may be needed or solutions which may be needed in the future. Thus, one of the aspects of our research and development program is to develop additional processes which may be added on to existing facilities.

A process that right now is quite promising would enable municipalities to go from their current 85- or 90-percent removal to virtually 99-percent removal of organic contaminants by adding onto their existing facilities. Accordingly, there would be no loss of investment by adding on to that particular facility. Now, on the other hand, as you point out, Mr. Daddario, there are other ways of solving the problem and that is entirely new systems for municipalities—looking into entirely new processes.