

Dr. WEINBERGER. This would be complete unit operating cost, including amortization of the facilities. This would be \$100 per million gallons of sewage treated.

Mr. MOSHER. I thought we had some early testimony on that process which indicated that no one was sure that with actual use and in larger operating form, the results of these pilot programs would prove out. It seems to me there is some such testimony.

Mr. DADDARIO. If there is a conflict, it will be up to us to clarify.

Mr. CONABLE. Mr. Chairman, I have another question.

Mr. Vivian asked you to find out if there were any grants given for combined sewer systems. As I recall, Congressman Jones testified before this subcommittee last week that it would cost \$30 billion to separate the storm sewers from the sanitary sewers in this country. I assume that we are making many grants to systems which have substantial portions of combined sewers. But I assume also that when additions are made to this system, they are of the separated form so as not to increase the size of the problem. I am sure we are making grants to combined systems, but I hope we are not making grants for extensions of combined sewer systems. I think that's the question we should ask.

Dr. WEINBERGER. Let me make a point here. The Water Pollution Control Administration in their construction grant program, where this would come up, provides for grants for the construction of sewage treatment plants and interceptor sewers. Our responsibility in the grant area, that is from the funds we administer, would be limited to the interceptor and the treatment plant itself. However, I'll see that such information as has been requested is made available and this point be clarified.

Mr. CONABLE. It is unlikely, is it not, that we will develop techniques which would be suitable for use with the combined system under all circumstances. The sheer volume of water in a combined system is likely to result in a bypass of the treatment process in the event of a heavy rain or anything of that sort.

Is it likely that we could ever develop a technique of sewage treatment which would be adequate for treatment of the flow in a combined system?

Dr. WEINBERGER. Sir, I would say that we would look for such a solution. Since the question of combined sewers has come up, we are currently working on a program which was authorized and approved by Congress last year in trying to find other solutions to the problem of combined sewers other than through separation. As was pointed out, the cost of separation may very well run into \$30 billion or more, and accordingly Congress authorized funds for the exploration of alternate methods. This was in answer to Mr. Mosher's question. I indicated that at the present time the best solution of this problem is separation but we are conducting a research and development program to seek alternate ways, and one of the alternate ways would certainly be some new method of treatment or newly applied method of treatment which would enable us to treat the large volumes.

Mr. CONABLE. This would be a great deal cheaper if you could do it.

Dr. WEINBERGER. If one could do it and this, of course, is a role of research and development.