

Mr. DADDARIO. When we were preparing ourselves for these hearings we met with certain scientists and industrial leaders, including Dr. Wiesner, and he pointed out that there were a few parts per million of DDT in our bodies. This is not considered harmful and yet nobody has begun to develop a method of determining whether in fact it might become harmful if we accumulate more. Therefore, in order to establish ourselves properly within the criteria you have placed before us, we should not assume that the presence of DDT isn't harmful just because we aren't dying from its effects.

Colonel MEYER. This, sir, is the thrust of these remarks that there is a need for greater exercise of research in this area.

Now, in the field of industrial toxicology as you know, there is a considerable effort. Some of the things which we are doing in the space program with regard to environmental quality standards for space cabins involve extensive long-term chronic toxicity studies to undertake this very question because the human body does indeed have certain detoxification capability, certain adaptive capabilities which we need to know more about.

Mr. DADDARIO. Perhaps I am overly concerned with the emphasis you put on the word, "practicable." What you mean is that we ought to do everything we can now, but at the same time we must watch the danger signs and develop techniques which don't presently exist.

Colonel MEYER. Yes, sir.

Mr. DADDARIO. We ought not carry this question of being impracticable too far.

Colonel MEYER. I would agree with your statement, Mr. Chairman that what we are saying here is the following: That there are some things that we clearly can discern as being problems and that there may be techniques to approach the solution of those problems in a rational and carefully planned manner recognizing those areas about which you do not have adequate information.

But, that in doing this, and in our comments further regarding our approach to the systems analysis application, you identify those levels of knowledge that you have and where you need to expand your research efforts, but being sufficiently flexible that you can indeed make the necessary changes in your larger program and in your techniques.

One has to take a look—this has already been alluded to in some other testimony before this committee also—to foreseeable changes. Now, Dr. Abel Wolman, who is one of the profession which I belong to, a most distinguished person, is going to appear before this committee and I recollect that approximately 25 years ago Dr. Wolman published a paper as a result of investigations conducted by the American Association of Railroads on the problems affecting disposal of human waste from railroads. As you know, the general procedures was and still is direct discharge onto the tracks.

As a result of considerable concern by the Public Health Service and others as to possible contamination of water waste by trains passing over bridges and also by effluents being discharged through the natural course of water running over the ground and into the receiving streams, is a problem.