

Panel, submitted July 1, 1966, to this committee. I do agree that there is no good present technology for the treatment of certain pollutants; by good, one means both effective and reasonable in cost. But I disagree that our environment is being so increasingly polluted because of a technology gap; rather, it is because of a management gap. It is just unreasonable to accept as fact that those technicians who have contrived to make our increasingly complex industrial technology economical cannot also devise means to deal with solid, gaseous, or liquid pollutants in the wastes from their processes.

I do not agree that the future pace of pollution abatement must depend entirely upon new science or technology—certainly not its immediate future pace. The major sources of polluted waters, ugly refuse heaps, and for a substantial part of pollution in the atmosphere, are in the management offices of industrial and municipal plants of all descriptions. It simply is so much cheaper and so much less trouble to dump stuff or vent stuff than it is to take care of it, that production management will dump and vent just so long as it can get away with doing it.

There are two ways to get production management to take action to deal with their wastes in the kind of workmanlike manner they apply to their production problems:

The first is to make them want to. Somehow get individuals who have already coped with a long list of responsibilities to accept one more, and to proceed to clean up their wastes because it is right and proper. Possibly to get production management to acknowledge that they too breathe the air, drink the water, take vacations, and that their own health and enjoyment are at stake.

This approach hasn't worked at all in most instances, works poorly and ineffectively in others, and even when successful, it's generally too late.

The second is to force them to take care of their wastes properly. Simply to require that the water they dump be pure, regardless of its condition when they receive it. That the gases they vent be free of pollution. That their spoil doesn't in turn despoil other property or remain ugly, regardless of how poor the area might have been when they undertook their operations.

On the assumption that it will be the latter case—that production management must be made to take care of its own wastes—it can be presumed that the Federal Government will provide the force. Local and State governments haven't done the job.

There will be some active dissent from production management. If you care to offer some relief, and you may, may I plead that it not be in the form of extensions of time to pollute? If any relief be offered, it should be in the pocketbook. Except where the technology actually doesn't exist for pollution control, wastes should be cleaned up.

This point brings me to the gap in technology management. The way I see it, pollution abatement technological management spends almost all of its time in identifying problems, developing analytical techniques, and the like—and almost no time on solving problems. The result too often is a multitude of surveys and tabulations of data which have the effect of masking the problems, not illuminating them.