

Mr. MOSHER. Yes.

Mr. DADDARIO. Mr. Chairman, we are pleased to have you here.

Chairman MILLER. Would you be willing to drink raw Potomac water which had been extracted from above the purification plant?

Mr. MOSHER. Not I.

Chairman MILLER. This water in front of us has been reconstituted. Sometimes we don't appreciate that fact and we get terribly disturbed when we talk about reconstituted water. But most of the water we use has to be filtered and treated with chlorine and then aerated and pumped back to us, and it's good quality water.

Mr. MOSHER. The point I was making, however, was that there are still vast possibilities for the further technology in the recycling and reuse of water.

Mr. WARNE. Oh, I don't doubt that. As a matter of fact, one plant at Whittier Narrows in Los Angeles County of the Los Angeles County Sanitation District presently is reclaiming water out of the trunk sewer; something like 10,000 acre-feet of water a year. The reclaimed water is being put on spreading grounds immediately below the Whittier Narrows Dam where it is percolated into the ground water basin and then is available for reuse by pumpers downstream. Downstream is only a space of a few miles before the Pacific Ocean is reached, but, in this basin reclaimed water is so used.

Now, this has been very carefully planned, very carefully operated, very carefully monitored and we are sure that this water is good when it reaches the ground-water basin.

We are also sure that 190,000 acre-feet additional water could be so reclaimed in the area of Los Angeles by this same process. The additional water is not being so reclaimed at the present time. While we have the technique and the method, we do not as yet have the program to reclaim this large amount of water which is wasted to the sea. That water has a great economic value in our State. It certainly is worth an immense amount of money, and to replace it costs great sums.

Mr. DADDARIO. If you will proceed, Mr. Warne.

Mr. WARNE. One of the most controversial factors influencing the development and utilization of water resources in California is that of nutrients. These are the materials that encourage or stimulate biological growths, particularly algae.

The phenomenon of biological growths in natural waters is a necessary part of the environment. Natural purification provides a tremendous buffer between man's influence and nature's balance.

Algae and plankton constitute a very important fishfood. Without a substantial supply, supported by nutrients, we would have no fisheries.

It is in the area of excessive biological productivity that we encounter undesirable problems such as unsightly growths or blooms where these microscopic plants become so numerous as to become aesthetically objectionable. In addition, upon decomposing, the plant material may actually pollute the water, utilizing excessive amounts of oxygen and often producing obnoxious odors.

There is considerable speculation as to the significance of many materials with regard to the effect on algal growth. It is generally