

of origin indicate the wide spectrum of problem and the consequent necessity for broadly based research and development. Subsidy for collection and disposal will not provide the long-term answers so universally missing.

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION PANEL (THE TUKEY REPORT)

(President's Science Advisory Committee)

In November 1965, the White House issued the above report. It is the most recent documentation of the problems and proposals in the general field of pollution of the environment. Its title reveals the temper and objective of the committee responsible for its preparation "Restoring the Quality of Our Environment." The environmental pollution panel was headed by John W. Tukey. The list of its membership and its advisers is a veritable who's who of distinguished and experienced scientists and technologists.

The report is perhaps the best exposition now available of the problems, the solutions and the unknowns in the pollution field. It is orderly in treatment, matured in judgment and surprisingly free of propagandistic "crisis and alarm." The basic definition upon which the document is predicated is long overdue, namely, that "Environmental pollution is the unfavorable alteration of our surroundings, wholly or largely as a byproduct of man's actions, through direct or indirect effects of changes in energy patterns, radiation levels, chemical and physical constitution, and abundances of organisms." Ingredients of the definition may well be spelled out in the objectives in abatement of pollution of water, air, and soil both in legislation and in administration.

The declared position of the Panel is best stated in its own words:

Present levels of pollution of air, water, soils, and living organisms are for the most part below the levels that have been demonstrated to cause disease or death in people. * * * Prudence and self-interest dictate that we exert ourselves not only to prevent further building of pollutants, but to reduce present burdens of pollution in our air, our waters, and our land.

The volume carries an abundance of earthy wisdom as to what we do and do not know, as to the complexities of control procedures at various levels of government, as to what standards we are shooting for, at what price, and what intelligent and imaginative management will require in all kinds of skilled manpower.

The report should be read from cover to cover. Full recognition of the clarity of reason and statement will be best fulfilled by such a reading. The recommendations, covering principles, actions, coordination and systems studies, baseline measurement programs, development and demonstration, research, and manpower, should be required homework for congressional committees, administrative agencies, and policymakers. They should serve as a sourcebook for national activity for probably the next 5 years. Little significant exception may be taken to most of what is encompassed within pages 16 to 38, inclusive.

Specifically, little is said in the report regarding either money or current Federal administrative policy and practice—issues which are