

decision as to which of the varying alternatives is selected rests in the public domain. It is here that the concept of "Federal leadership" is really put to the test. What is done in the Federal departments and agencies must submit to the test of practical results, economy of operation, and reasonable capital investment.

*Question 3: How do you view the role of the professional specialist in providing a better state of knowledge on the part of the general public regarding the problems of environmental pollution abatement?*

Answer: The professional specialist has a moral or professional obligation to give the facts of a given situation as he sees them without attempting to color the views with his personal opinions, motivations, desires, political or religious convictions. The "information explosion" that is accompanying the speeding advance of science and technology and the rapidity of communication (particularly in the public media) presents a major challenge to the professional specialists in informing the public regarding environmental pollution. Many aspects of the question of environmental quality in reality (as has been indicated in our prepared testimony and in response to these additional continuation questions) involve subjective reactions rather than objective analysis. The importance of providing information in a readily understandable form for use by the general public becomes immediately apparent.

The professional specialist in environmental pollution must recognize that individuals (and individuals collectively in groups) undertake action when the satisfaction to be derived from that action outweighs the discomforts and sacrifices that he may have to undergo in order to arrive at that particular goal. This does not infer that people and populations behave in a rational manner. Population prejudices, habits, and just sheer inertia may prevent what appears to be a perfectly logical and necessary course from being undertaken. Expectations and apprehensions based on past experiences or on inadequate information, although unfounded, may prove to be a deciding determinate in individual and group responses. Accordingly, some single or possibly only two or three elements affecting a problem in the public domain may influence the overall decision. The situation may become even more acute when the problem is a complex one in which an ill-defined or only partially valid premise or set of conclusions is present in an authoritative sense. The problems of environmental pollution presents just such a set of conditions.

The professional specialist, to properly communicate with the general public, must have available to him adequate communication within his own discipline and must insure that such communication exists with the other disciplines who have a proper interest and involvement. Without such communications, the inevitable differences of opinion or narrow specificities of interest within the professional community can only emerge to further confuse the general public.

This problem of information dissemination and information retrieval is a major one. The Department of Defense-NASA Information Life Sciences, Space Research and Technology Exchange (ILSSE), now being incorporated into the Defense Documentation Center and the services available to the various Federal departments and agencies through the National Research Council, National Advisory Center on Toxicology, represent efforts to make available on a