

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, RESEARCH,
AND DEVELOPMENT BY DR. COLIN M. MACLEOD, EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE PRESIDENT

Question 1: Could you describe existing coordination mechanisms within the executive branch for scientific activity in environmental pollution?

Answer: The President's Office of Science and Technology functions to coordinate scientific activities on environmental pollution in a variety of ways. In addition to providing advice and assistance to the President by evaluating programs and assisting to develop policies, the Office assists in coordinating agency activities through frequent formal and informal contacts with agency representatives.

The Office of Science and Technology maintains close liaison with the Federal Committee on Pest Control, including attendance at all meetings of FCPC. The Office also works closely with the Bureau of the Budget in providing leadership in the planning of Federal Government programs, organization, and policy on matters of environmental pollution.

The OST staff is presently analyzing and evaluating the responses of Government agencies to the President's request for recommendations as to how the Federal Government can best direct its efforts toward advancing understanding of natural plant and animal communities and their interactions with man, which is concerned directly with environmental pollution and natural beauty.

The Office provides a staff member to participate in the President's Council on Recreation and Natural Beauty.

The Committee on Water Resources Research of the Federal Council for Science and Technology has evaluated the needs for research in problems of water pollution by the Federal Government. Its recommendations on water quality management and protection are included in the report "A 10-Year Program of Federal Water Resources Research" (1966). The work of the FCST Committee on Water Resources Research was supported by the Panel on Water Resources of the Office of Science and Technology. The recommendations of the Panel are reflected in the report of the FCST Committee on Water Resources Research.

In addition to the 10-year program for water resources research, the Federal Council for Science and Technology has issued progress reports on Federal water resources research for each of the past 3 years.

The President's Science Advisory Committee, for which OST provides staff support, has studied in depth a number of major pollution problems and has made recommendations for policies and programs needed to alleviate them. Examples include the PSAC reports: "Use of Pesticides" (1963), "Restoring the Quality of our Environment" (1965), and "Effective Use of the Sea" (1966). At the present time the Office of Science and Technology and the Bureau of the Budget are analyzing and coordinating the responses of Government agencies to