

the recommendations in the report "Restoring the Quality of Our Environment" and will take actions based on this analysis.

*Question 2: Is there a formal procedure whereby Federal activities which might result in lowering the quality of the environment can be reviewed in the light of broader public interest considerations? (Such a function might be similar to the Federal Committee on Pest Control.)*

Answer: At the present time there is no organization whose primary responsibility is to review comprehensively Federal activities that might result in lowering the quality of our environment. The Federal Committee on Pest Control is concerned with insecticides, fungicides, nematocides, herbicides, and bactericides. In addition, the Special Assistant for Science and Technology, under a national security action memorandum, has the responsibility to review large-scale experiments that might have a deleterious effect on the environment. Major problems of environmental pollution have been evaluated from time to time by the President's Science Advisory Committee as noted above.

The evaluation the Office of Science and Technology and the Bureau of the Budget is presently making of the recommendations of the PSAC report "Restoring the Quality of Our Environment" and the responses of Government agencies to that report, includes consideration of establishing either an interagency committee on environmental pollution or a committee of the Federal Council for Science and Technology to be concerned with problems of environmental pollution.

The PSAC report made the following recommendations concerning identification of problems and coordination of actions:

"(a) The Federal Council for Science and Technology should establish a Committee on Pollution Problems, composed of its own members.

"(b) The National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council should be asked to establish an Environmental Pollution Board, to be supported by Government grant.

"(c) This NAS-NRC Board should meet jointly with the FCST Committee at least once a year to discuss newly recognized broad problems and current changes in the apparent importance of those previously recognized.

"(d) The Board and Committee should cooperate, through working-level mechanisms such as joint panels, to identify the most pressing broad problems, and the general character of new knowledge or techniques needed to study or ameliorate them."

Our current evaluation of the PSAC report is deeply concerned with these recommendations.

*Question 3: What is your view on the "National Commission for Environmental Protection" suggested by the NAS report "Waste Management and Control"?*

Answer: In my opinion a high-level planning and coordinating body should be established such as the "National Commission for Environmental Protection" suggested in the NAS report, or mechanisms such as were recommended in the PSAC report and noted immediately above.

When the OST/BOB evaluation of the PSAC Report "Restoring the Quality of our Environment" has been completed, we will be in a much better position to recommend what type of planning and coordinating body or bodies should be established.