

The technological solutions I have suggested represent an area which industry might well press. The market is large and the returns could be quite attractive. In another area the Government may play an important part. The possibility of economic measures to stimulate pollution abatement has been pointed out by Kneese and others. Government incentives may also discourage a serious effort to seek new methods of meeting the pollution menace. Water from Federal reservoirs for dilution of wastes at no cost to beneficiaries, subsidies to water users which encourage water waste, subsidies to irrigation without recognition of the resulting saline pollution, and subsidies for construction of conventional waste treatment facilities all tend to encourage the status quo and discourage a new look.

Definition of problems and goals and discovery of possible abatement techniques would place us in a position to decide on the best approach to solve our problems. Here is the place for systems analysis, be it mathematical or skilled judgment. The techniques are less important than the facts.

I am not so naive as to believe that we will proceed step by step as I have outlined. Some of our problems are too urgent to brook delay. We cannot afford to stand still until new ideas are developed and checked out. I am also aware that it is fashionable to endorse research whenever a problem is faced. What I am really suggesting is planned research. Without research we cannot advance. Our research facilities and manpower are too limited to permit its reckless dissipation on random problems. We need to study the system we are coping with, to assess the most productive approaches and concentrate research and development effort where it can be expected to "pay off" most handsomely.