

STATEMENT SUBMITTED TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, RESEARCH,
AND DEVELOPMENT BY EARL L. WILSON, INDUSTRIAL GAS CLEANING
INSTITUTE, INC., AUGUST 23, 1966

As president of the Industrial Gas Cleaning Institute, I attended your committee hearing on Thursday, July 21, and again with members of our IGCI Government Relations Committee on Tuesday, August 9, 1966. We want you to know that we are very favorably impressed with the work your subcommittee is doing and the knowledge and understanding of the committee members. We are confident that better and more practical approaches to research on pollution control will result from your efforts.

Let us first acquaint you with the Industrial Gas Cleaning Institute. The IGCI is a national association of manufacturers of gas cleaning equipment. We are concerned with the collection of particulate matter and as an institute are not presently involved with the control of gaseous emission. The IGCI encompasses all four types of air pollution control devices (particulate collectors): Electrostatic precipitators, mechanical collectors, bag filters, wet scrubbers. We represent most of the major manufacturers and an estimated 80 to 85 percent of the dollar volume of industrial dust collecting equipment sold in the United States.

We are in complete agreement with many of the statements made by the witnesses appearing before your committee and in the report of the Research Management Advisory Panel, and would like to comment briefly on what we feel are some of the more pertinent statements.

Page 3 of your report states: "Policies which aid the efficient and timely deployment of private sector scientists and engineers are desirable." We wholeheartedly endorse this statement and that of Dr. Bueche when he says, "Industry has the needed skills and facilities." We believe that such skills and knowledge are available within the gas cleaning equipment industry. Many of these concerns have been working in this area for 30 or 40 years.

We agree with the statement on page 11 of the report that "What the Nation needs is not the revenue from penalty fines imposed on polluters; rather, the need is for reduction in the volume of pollutants discharged to the environment." Industry needs help and incentive, not penalties. This is particularly true of the marginal operators who could be forced out of business by the cost of control equipment. This may sound contradictory coming from people whose business it is to sell control equipment, but it is extremely important and should be carefully considered.

Dr. Beuche said, in his most commendable statement, that the "job * * * will be completed most rapidly if attacked on a competitive basis." We firmly believe in this philosophy and were extremely gratified to note the committee's awareness of, and attitude toward, the value of profit as an incentive. The outstanding example of the value of the profit motive is the problem of SO₂ which was mentioned