Mr. SAYLOR. Mr. Di Luzio appeared before this committee on January 27, 1967, with regard to the Metropolitan Water District desalting plant. At that time he stated that the estimated cost of desalted water at plant site, when all units are onstream, would be approximately 21.9 cents per thousand gallons, $71 an acre-foot.

Mr. Secretary, at the same time we are conducting these hearings, word has come to me that there are certain people over in the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy conducting some hearings and making some public statements over there. Basically these are the figures that were given to me over the noon hour: The Atomic Energy Commission has said that between 1967 and 1968 there has been approximately a 40-percent rise in the cost of atomic energy and that the break-even point on a power plant, atomic powerplant in 1967, when Mr. Di Luzio gave us these figures, was 500,000 kilowatts, and, at the present time, it is 800,000 kilowatts. The cost has risen from 4 mills to 5 mills plus for a kilowatt of power.

Now, in view of that, Mr. Secretary, I was astounded and doubly so when I read last night the summary of the "Reconnaissance Report for the Augmentation of the Colorado River" by desalting seawater. I saw where your people were using costs which were below what Mr. Di Luzio gave this committee less than a year ago, and you indicated you might anticipate 9-cent water.

I am wondering how these two can be tied together or whether the information which the Atomic Energy Commission is now releasing to the public was never released to the people making your reconnaissance report.

Mr. DOMINY. First of all, Mr. Saylor, Secretary Di Luzio was talking about a plant that was going into construction on the basis of today's technology. The estimates which you read in our summary are based on the technology expected to be realized by the period 1990 to 1995. These were provided to us by the Atomic Energy Commission for the atomic reactors and by the Office of Saline Water for the desalting works. Now, these data reflect, as I said, the technology projected for a long time in the future. They depend upon a fast breeder nuclear reactor being available. They assumed improvements in the water plant, including a combination of vertical tube and multistage flash evaporators. And they assumed better heat transfer surfaces.

The results reflect an estimated production cost of 9.8 cents a thousand gallons at plant, provided there was combined a large atomic powerplant and a large desalting plant, to take full use of the advantages of size.

Mr. SAYLOR. Of course, I am sure that you assumed that there was no cost escalation between this and 1990, because I assume that you disregarded completely the admonition of Admiral Rickover when he, who was the one who saw the great potential in the fast breeder reactors, asked that it be withdrawn and all the other miracles that you have anticipated between this date and 1990. Because nothing less than a miracle is ever going to produce 9-cent water pumped 4,000 feet to run through the turbines at Lake Mead.

Mr. DOMINY. The 9.8-cent cost is at plant site on the seacoast. That is not the cost of delivered water. The larger portion of total cost is in the conveyance of the water to the Colorado River. This is what runs the costs up. The final costs are over $80 an acre-foot.