

We do not have any heavy industry as a major source of air pollution in the Metropolitan Washington area. But we do have Federal power plants which provide a good substitute. Mr. S. Smith Griswold, Chief of Enforcement for the National Center for Air Pollution Control, reported to the Senate District Subcommittee that the Federal plants in the Washington area contribute about one-third of the sulfur dioxide in the air.

I might interject at this point that this is one very good reason that Congress should at this time set standards in regard to air pollution; because this is something which the Federal establishment is contributing to and I think that we should show that we have a recognition of the problem and a willingness to do something about it here in Congress.

To be safe, according to the National Center for Air Pollution Control, a city's air should not exceed .015 parts per million of sulfur dioxide on an annual average. Washington's air, over the past few years, has averaged about .04 parts per million of sulfur dioxide. While there are many days well below this annual average, there have been some days, such as in 1965, when the maximum measured was .2 parts per million and the average monthly high reading was .08. Quantities as low as 0.25 may damage some varieties of vegetation over long periods of exposure and will cause severe nose and throat irritation in amounts ranging in the area of 10 to 15 parts per million. In fact, studies have shown a statistical relationship between the incidence of respiratory disease and sulfur dioxide levels.

The third major source of air pollution in the District is the Kenilworth Dump, where 150,000 tons of refuse are dumped each year, producing 2,700 tons per year of flying garbage in the form of dust and soot.

I could go on at considerable length citing numerous figures to indicate further the urgent need to clean up the air, but I don't want the statistics to obscure the fact that we are dealing with people—their health and their lives.

Once we have decided we are going to clean up the air, we then must decide basically two things: (1) What Governmental structure we are going to use, and, (2) How we are going to set the standards necessary to maintain clean air. It is my belief that the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments approach I am following in this legislation (that is, local government units adopting air pollution regulations in conformance with those developed and recommended by a regional organization to meet the particular needs of the region) is the most effective means of controlling air pollution. Mr. Frederick Babson, President of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments will report on how the local governments of our area can and are moving to take positive steps in the control of air pollution by adopting the Council of Governments model ordinance. My own Montgomery County, I am proud to say, is in the vanguard of this effort—in fact, all of the local jurisdictions are moving in the same direction.

I strongly feel that this cooperative regional approach I am outlining here is much more in the tradition of local governmental responsibility than a Federal strong-man type of approach, insensitive to local problems.