

In brief, H. R. 6981 would establish regulations for the prevention and control of air pollution from fuel-burning installations, open burning and incineration of refuse, and other manufacturing and processing activities. The bill would also require the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to establish an Air Pollution Control Agency and, through this agency, to perform various functions relating to the evaluation of air pollution problems in the District of Columbia, the development of plans for dealing with such problems, and enforcement of the regulations contained in the bill.

We are strongly in favor of Congressional action to provide effective legislation for the prevention and control of air pollution in the District of Columbia. In our view, however, such action will be most effective, in the long run, if it leads to the adoption of enabling legislation, under which an agency of the District of Columbia government would be authorized or directed to establish and enforce appropriate regulations for the prevention and control of air pollution.

There are several reasons why enabling legislation would be the most satisfactory basis for an air pollution control program in the District of Columbia. For one thing, scientific understanding of the problem of air pollution and its effects on public health and welfare is constantly improving, and, at the same time, as Congressman Gude mentioned, technology for the prevention and control of air pollution is constantly being modified and improved. This means that new problems are frequently encountered and that new opportunities for effective control action are being found. To deal with such problems and to take full advantage of such opportunities, the District of Columbia must be in a position to alter its regulations without necessarily seeking the adoption of new legislation, which would apparently be required under H.R. 6981.

May I add here we did not have, Mr. Chairman, a chance to fully evaluate Mr. Gude's suggested amendments prior to the preparation of our presentation.

Mr. MULTER. We will appreciate it if at your leisure you will examine them more closely and give us a supplemental statement with reference to them and also at the same time examine the Commissioners' bill which was introduced yesterday.

Mr. GRISWOLD. I would be glad to, Mr. Chairman.

We recognize that the provisions of this bill are taken from a model ordinance prepared by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments with technical assistance from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Those provisions of the model ordinance containing detailed standards for the prevention and control of air pollution reflect technical judgments made on the basis of data available at the time the ordinance was being prepared; however, our current investigation of air pollution in the Washington area may well indicate that the regulations needed to deal with the problems are different from those contained in the model ordinance. We recommend, then, that those sections of the bill containing standards and regulations for the control of various types of air pollutants be eliminated, and that, in their place, language be inserted which would authorize the adoption of appropriate standards and regulations by the District of Columbia government.

If the Committee wishes to place greater emphasis on the adoption