

of regulations than it could by merely providing discretionary authority for such action, you may wish to consider a provision which would explicitly direct the responsible agency to develop and adopt adequate regulations to achieve desirable air quality within a specified time period.

In many important respects, H.R. 6981 would provide opportunities for improvement in the District of Columbia's efforts to deal with problems of air pollution. The bill would apparently vest all responsibility for air pollution prevention and control activities in a single agency. We support such a step, for we believe that the current division of responsibility for control activities is a serious obstacle to real progress in the fight against air pollution in the District. We therefore urge that this single-agency concept be retained, regardless of whether authority is vested in the Commissioners or in an existing agency.

With slight modification, H.R. 6981 could provide opportunities for progress on another front—progress toward the development of a regional attack on air pollution in the Washington area. This area's air pollution problems are regional problems, in very large measure. Many people who live in the area tend to think that Washington is the source of all, or nearly all, of the area's air pollution. This is a myth that serves mainly to obscure the need for a coordinated regional effort to deal with the problem. There are numerous air pollution sources in all parts of the Washington metropolitan area, and their impact is felt throughout the area. This area clearly shares a common air supply and a common air pollution problem. The District of Columbia should, of course, be in a position to participate fully in any regional air pollution control effort that may be undertaken in the months and years ahead. We suggest then, that H.R. 6981 be modified to give the District government explicit authority to negotiate with other State and local governments in the Washington area concerning interstate air pollution and its control. Congress would still have the opportunity to approve any compacts or agreements that might be produced.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, we believe that new legislation to deal with air pollution in the District of Columbia is urgently needed. In our view, such legislation should provide broad authority for the adoption of appropriate standards and regulations and should permit the District to play an effective role in the development of regional control action.

Mr. Chairman, the Assistant Surgeon General, Vernon MacKenzie, was able to come to the hearing today and he played a very active role in the development of the Federal Control Program and he might be interested in saying something.

Mr. MULTER. Will you come forward, sir?

Is there something you would like to add? We would be very happy to hear from you.

Mr. MacKENZIE. Mr. Chairman, I don't believe I have any added comments at this particular time. I would be glad to participate in answering any questions if I can be of benefit in this way.

Mr. MULTER. Will you identify yourself for the record, Mr. MacKenzie.