

Mr. Chairman, the Board of Commissioners has previously submitted a report on H.R. 6981 and I ask that it be included in the record.

Briefly, the Commissioners fully endorse the objectives of the bill; however, rather than enacting H.R. 6981 in its present form, we urge that the Congress adopt legislation granting the Commissioners authority to adopt air pollution controls substantially similar to those prescribed in H.R. 6981. With this in mind, the Commissioners' Report recommends certain amendments which would provide the flexibility necessary to carry out an effective air pollution control program in keeping with the highly desirable objectives contained in H.R. 6981.

The Commissioners have recently gone on record expressing the fact that they are most anxious to establish an adequate air pollution control program and will do so as soon as authority is granted by the Congress. They have also expressed their intent to centralize air pollution control, along with all other environmental pollution controls, in the Department of Public Health. This department is presently working on proposed air pollution regulations and it is our intent to hold public hearings on such regulations within sixty days after the authority is granted.

The Commissioners have also indicated they are prepared to provide the air pollution control program with the necessary staff and budgetary support for implementation. We are hopeful that legislation giving the Commissioners appropriate authority will be forthcoming from this session of the Congress.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before your Committee. I have representatives of several District Departments here with me today and we will be pleased to answer any questions from the Committee.

We would therefore strongly endorse and urge enactment of the bill which you, Mr. Chairman, indicated you had introduced yesterday, although we have not had a chance to see that.

Mr. MULTER. I wish you would check that out and see whether or not we have any substantive changes. As the bill is introduced there are some slight differences. If so, call it to our attention.

Thank you very much.

Colonel HENSON. Thank you very much for the opportunity to appear before your Committee. I have several representatives of the various District departments here and I believe Dr. Grant is the only one with a prepared statement. Possibly he would want to give his statement.

Mr. MULTER. I think it might be well to hear Dr. Grant's statement first. You may either read it or we will file it. The choice is yours.

Dr. GRANT. I would suggest in the interest of time, if it is satisfactory with you, I would file it and perhaps summarize very rapidly what it contains.

Mr. MULTER. Very good.

(The complete statement of Dr. Murray Grant follows:)

STATEMENT OF MURRAY GRANT, M.D., D.P.H., DIRECTOR, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BEFORE THE HOUSE DISTRICT COMMITTEE, ON H.R. 6981—A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE PREVENTION, ABATEMENT, AND CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AUG. 10, 1967

Mr. Chairman, in 1935 an Act was passed by the U.S. Congress with the expressed purpose stated as follows: "to prevent the fouling of the atmosphere in the District of Columbia by smoke and other foreign substances, and for