

Mr. COUNTS. We feel therefore the fuel is not as much at fault as the method of operation. In almost all industrial activities the use of energy—in the use of energy there can be pollution where there are improper methods used. We feel our fuel is somewhat being used as a “Whipping Boy” when it should not be.

Mr. WINN. I see. If all these stacks have perfect fuel burning equipment, and it operated perfectly, you have practically no contamination of the air through stack emission?

Mr. COUNTS. We could almost substitute “properly.” “Perfectly” perhaps being a stronger word. In other words it is not too difficult, it is not impossible, it is not impractical to achieve such clean operations. Mr. Colkin of HEW I believe would bear us out on that.

Mr. WINN. I would like very much to have that HEW study. I recall you said it was made by Jack Colkin.

Mr. COUNTS. Yes.

Mr. WINN. I would like to have that made part of the record.

Mr. MULTER. We will request it.

Mr. GUDE. I think we are talking about two different air pollutants. One, sulphur dioxide and the other the question of emission from the stack, incomplete combustion carbon particles and other material. Isn't that right?

Mr. COUNTS. This is correct.

Mr. GUDE. What you are saying by “proper operation” Mr. Via is that if a plant is properly operated then there is no visible or negligible stack emission and there is no air pollution problem, but if the operators were burning high sulphur fuels, says four percent sulphur fuels you are still going to get the emission of sulphur dioxide.

There is no way the operator under the present facilities that are available can cut down on sulphur dioxide, but he can control the stack emission.

Mr. VIA. This is true.

Mr. GUDE. Sulphur dioxide is still there.

Mr. WINN. I appreciate the clarification. I don't believe it's that easy no matter how you break it down. I would like to ask how many plants are properly operated in the city in your opinion?

Mr. VIA. I would think basically Mr. Winn, certainly more than half of those plants operating are operating properly. I might go further to say that those installations which we installed and I don't mean that to sound commercial, but ours operate properly and it can be operated properly so there is no smoke emission.

Mr. WINN. I probably expect you, after your strong statement, to say yours are operating properly. Probably someone could go down and show you some aren't operating properly. Regarding stack emission, can't it be controlled by ordinances? Can't we require strict operation so that the operation can be controlled better?

Mr. COUNTS. There are certain codes available to control emissions. Just how stringent they are and how diligently they are enforced, I couldn't say.

Mr. VIA. The City of Pittsburgh has such codes which are vigorously enforced and they have made great strides in the elimination and reduction of smoke stack emission.

Mr. WINN. Doesn't the District have codes on this?

Mr. VIA. I think there are some, sir.