

The CHAIRMAN. Through research the cost figures can go down?

Dr. WEINBERGER. Yes. We have been able to reduce the past cost figures by 50 percent. There is a very good indication of following up on the previous presentation. Industry is very much in this thing.

The CHAIRMAN. Is industry becoming increasingly more active in advancing research to improve techniques?

Dr. WEINBERGER. Senator, they are now.

The CHAIRMAN. I meant in the last couple of years.

Dr. WEINBERGER. Yes. And I would say, in large measure, that part of it results from some stimulation provided by Federal funds.

The CHAIRMAN. European countries have been involved in the reuse factors of water for many years, have they not?

Dr. WEINBERGER. No, sir. Not as a rule. Europeans at the present time lag behind our technology. I should not be talking about that so generally.

The CHAIRMAN. I did not qualify it, but I meant the percentage of their use of water. Has there been a substantial recycling program going on?

Dr. WEINBERGER. In some places. Some parts of Europe have been doing this. This is a very important point. We are going to have to do this in the United States.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Hansen.

Senator HANSEN. I do not have any questions. I am certainly very much interested in the presentation you make here, Doctor. Coming from the West, I appreciate the importance of these developments. We have already felt the pinch of inadequate water supply. We look forward to the further development and refining of these techniques you described this morning, not only as a means of providing a more nearly adequate supply to some of the coastal regions, but also to make additional water available to the upper reaches of the Basin States and to augment the supply generally.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Anderson.

Senator ANDERSON. You do not try to get absolutely all the pollution out of the water, do you?

Dr. WEINBERGER. No, sir. This is one of the things that makes my job a little easier. You do not have to remove all of the pollution because the drinking water we have has a certain amount of impurities. There is a certain amount of salt in it. It is not harmful. In fact, without it you would not want to drink the water. So, you do not have to remove all the impurities. In some cases we have to remove more than others.

Sir, if I may indicate here, each one of these steps should be looked at as removing a different kind of pollution. In certain situations we might end over here and not require more removal. But in some places we would remove it over to here in order to get back to the original quality.

But, certainly, we do not have to remove all of the minerals in the water.

Senator ANDERSON. I think the slight pollutants make a better taste in the water. I have had some samples.

Dr. WEINBERGER. Exactly the point, sir. One would not want to take out all the minerals found in the water.

The CHAIRMAN. We do not want to get into the fluoride question, do we?