

But the problem is that these granting agencies do not have any pot of money which is specifically assigned to the support of projects for the International Biological Program. They simply have to be fitted in with all the research proposals from all different kinds of biology. And this has two disadvantages. One is that the molecular biologists, the biochemists, and the laboratory physiologists are liable to say, quite understandably, that any support given to the International Biological Program is likely to take support away from them. The other disadvantage is that it is very hard to develop a coherent and meaningful program unless we have an assured source of funds.

So I would like, myself, to see as soon as possible in the budgets of the NSF and the NIH and perhaps also in Agriculture, Interior, and AEC, a line item which is specifically directed toward the International Biological Program.

Mr. DADDARIO. What have those agencies said to you about that possibility?

Dr. REVELLE. Well, up to the present time they have been sort of ambivalent about it. I think Dr. Carlson in the privacy of his office might say it would be a good idea, but God knows what he will say in a public hearing.

Mr. DADDARIO. He might say just the opposite.

[Laughter.]

Dr. REVELLE. That is right.

Well, I think that many people——

Mr. DADDARIO. I won't ask him that question.

Dr. REVELLE. Many people in the agencies would think it is a good idea and others would think that perhaps the present system is the best.

But my own opinion is that we should aim for a line item in the budget.

Mr. DADDARIO. Do you have any feeling about how it would work out if you are successful in your line item ambition which you stress in your paper? We always hear the argument that new things take away from on-going ones. I wonder if that is always true. I do not at the moment feel that that was an overwhelming or compelling barrier here.

Dr. REVELLE. No, I don't think it is. In fact, I think that all our experience to date shows that when we have a really important and justifiable new program or new focus like ecology, which, as I said, has had to lag behind the other sciences and now is ripe for pushing——

Mr. DADDARIO. What would happen——

Dr. REVELLE. This simply stimulates everything else. In fact, it will help the other kinds of biology rather than detract from them.

Mr. DADDARIO. I am looking at it from the standpoint of the best practical way to approach this, since you raise the question of the lack of line item inhibiting the IBP research proposals.

If they are line items, if the agency heads of all of these Government organizations are anxious to support them, if you do succeed in your line item desires, and if the Congress is in a cutting mood, because these are new proposals these proposals would stick out like a sore thumb and could be eliminated and you would not have any