

Secretary FREEMAN. Absolutely critical importance. There is very little use to a Public Law 566 structure and watershed control program without the work to retain soil in place and the proper land management in the areas surrounding that particular water impoundment; otherwise, erosion will destroy it very rapidly, and the whole purpose of building the structure will be quickly lost. You simply cannot separate the land treatment measures and the planned program which is involved in the water impoundment itself.

Senator RIBICOFF. "Mr. Secretary, it is my understanding that the Bureau of Reclamation installs project-type irrigation facilities which carry the water to the individual farms, but does not provide for the on-farm distribution systems and other needed conservation measures. How do you think this approach compares with the procedure used by the Department of Agriculture?"

Secretary FREEMAN. In the Department of Agriculture, this is done as an integrated whole. The question would be not only to deliver the water to the farm but the method of its handling and its distribution consistent with maximum return and sound conservation principles.

DUPLICATION WOULD RESULT FROM PROPOSED REORGANIZATION to provide the services that are needed on farm planning, and if you separated the development of the water impoundment from the farm land program planning, why, you would inevitably begin to duplicate those same services.

So, this would run directly counter, and is, I think, a rather sharp and good example of how the proposal currently before the committee would result not in eliminating duplication but in magnifying it at considerably increased cost and less efficiency.

LOCAL DISTRICTS' EFFICIENCY WOULD BE LOST

Senator RIBICOFF. "The action programs of the Department of Agriculture are implemented through local organizations such as soil and water conservation districts and other subdivisions of State and county government. Would the transfer of the watershed activity to another department inhibit their effectiveness in carrying out local responsibilities for resource development?"

Secretary FREEMAN. Yes, I think, inevitably, it would affect working relationship between the elected soil conservation committees, and I would point out, Mr. Chairman, that these are people that are