

the Department on the grounds that this is a matter of public health which is located in the Department whose primary concern is health. Yet a change was made in water. How do the air and water programs differ?

Mr. COHEN. Well, let me read you from my paper which I think attempts to answer that question.

If you will turn to page 11 of my statement—

Senator RIBICOFF. What page, sir?

Mr. COHEN. Page 11, sir.

AIR POLLUTION AFFECTS PUBLIC HEALTH

I say:

The proposed transfer of responsibility for the air pollution and solid waste programs to the Department of the Interior might well create more problems than it would solve. To be sure, air and water pollution, in particular, are often talked about as though they were twin problems, but are they really so much alike? The fact is that they are not, even though they have many things in common. We must breathe the air as it comes to us—polluted or not. The same deal has been written and said about the capacity of the atmosphere to dilute and disperse the pollutants released into it, the fact is that despite daily and seasonal variations and despite geographical differences, the air in all parts of the country has only a very limited capacity to purge itself of pollution. It follows, then, that the techniques applicable to the management of other natural resources are only slightly, if at all, applicable to the protection of the air resource. This dichotomy certainly would not be eliminated by assigning the responsibility for air pollution research and control activities to a Department of Natural Resources.

Senator RIBICOFF. Well, do you figure that the public health would suffer if air pollution were transferred to a Department of Natural Resources?

POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS

Mr. COHEN. Well, I think the primary problem, as I see it, is, first, a matter of policy and, secondly, a matter of administration.

On policy, I think that in putting this in the Department of—what is now—the Interior where you have the Bureau of Mines and where you have major concern for the producers of coal and oil, which are part of the great sources of pollution, you are putting the regulator and the regulated, in a sense, together in the same basket, and I think

You are aware that the Department has asked for increased funds and support for the air pollution program. We anticipate building a rather major activity in research and development along these lines, specifically with respect to the emissions of sulphur oxides.

In this particular case, we have launched a major activity of research and development involving industry as well as the Federal