

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1968

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE OF SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10:12 a.m., in room 2325, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C., Hon. Emilio Q. Daddario (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. DADDARIO. This meeting will come to order.

These hearings are a natural sequence to hearings this subcommittee held in 1966. We issued a report on those hearings entitled "Environmental Pollution, a Challenge to Science and Technology," which included a number of recommendations as to the whole question of pollution—air, water, and soil—and its attendant problems.

These hearings will explore the way in which the science resources available to the Federal Government are developed in support of our national goals for environmental quality. Goals and objectives have been spelled out in laws which have passed both Houses of Congress in recent years by overwhelming margins—often without a single dissenting vote. This legislation is a tribute to the leadership of Senators Ed Muskie and Jennings Randolph, Representatives Harley Staggers, Robert Jones, and John Blatnik; just to name only a few of many. The achievement of cleaner air and abundant water supplies depends to a very great extent on scientific research, engineering development, and techno-economic demonstration. But often we see these technical activities subjected to budget cutting and criticism, especially in this current period of fiscal constraint.

This subcommittee wishes to stress the crucial role for science and technology in pollution abatement. As a result of our hearings in 1966, which I have already referred to, we specifically identified two categories in environmental quality and waste management. First, there are problems of gross and obvious pollution where abatement technology is available and the only limitations on progress are the funds and time for construction of control facilities, and perhaps the will to put these to work. This category includes, for example, smoke and fly ash in the air and the treatment of sewage before release into surface waters. Certain regions of the country will have special problems which demand immediate solution. We have plenty to do in these catch-up abatement actions that need not wait for further R. & D. These steps can reverse presently increasing trends in certain pollutants and therefore lead by this method to immense improvements.

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