

sponsibility of Secretary Boyd, although we are still maintaining a general overview.

Mr. DADDARIO. The responsibility remains with you to see that this works out?

Dr. HORNIG. Our general responsibility to advise and assist the President on all major problems and programs with which he is concerned. But the principal responsibility will now be in Secretary Boyd's hands.

Going back to the committee, the second special group is a panel on systematics and taxonomy. The increasing attention being given to the ecological effects of man's activities calls for additional scientists capable of identifying the multiplicity of biological constituents of an ecosystem as a prerequisite to assessing changes. This group will study the demands of existing future programs for systematics and taxonomy.

The kind of problem with which you are well acquainted is the kind that is generated by the large-scale use of pesticides, which we need to do for agricultural purposes, but which we know to change the overall biological balance, but in fact in many cases we do not know what the longrun effects of changing that biological balance in nature may be.

Regular contact is being maintained with the National Committee for the International Biological Program since much of that committee's planning is dependent upon systematics.

Currently, the committee is preparing for its use a series of situation papers dealing with specific pollution-related topics. These papers will be used as a basis for establishing priorities for further committee actions.

I would emphasize that the Committee on Environmental Quality is an interagency group whose main role is one of technical coordination. We hope it can develop policy and program recommendations as well; but it should be clear that some problems cannot be tackled effectively through an interagency committee. Experience has shown that such problems as the selection of a lead agency or the establishment of a new activity are very difficult for an FCST committee.

The establishment of the group has precipitated an interesting and significant reaction.

On the mistaken assumption both within and outside Government that the FCST committee is a focal point for all environmental-quality related activities, inquiries have come in from public and private organizations, calling attention to problems, both old and new, that extend far beyond the committee's charter.

Mr. DADDARIO. Dr. Hornig, if it is not a focal point, where is the focal point? If there is not one, why should we not have one?

Dr. HORNIG. It is the best focal point we have. As I mentioned, many of the problems get way outside of the area of science and technology and research and development. It is not the focal point of all action programs. The focal point for the water pollution program is the Water Pollution Control Administration. The focal point for air pollution problems is HEW.

As I said, our role is to maintain a general overview for the President.