

Mr. DADDARIO. We will submit some further questions on that particular subject, because I think it is important that it be spelled out just how this activity is being performed and what your capability is manpowerwise to do it. You may continue.

Dr. BENNETT. The Panel will have as its charter a mandate to maintain an overview of environmental problems and the steps being taken to solve them; to survey the direction and emphasis of current programs and assess their relative priorities; to identify problems receiving inadequate attention; and to keep the President advised on progress and opportunities. The Panel's scope of interest and responsibility will include pollution of air, water, soil, and the biota; the total earth environment; and resource conservation and exploitation.

As the members of this subcommittee so well know, the problems of environmental pollution are no respecters of national boundaries. They are worldwide. The recent report of the Department of Commerce Panel on Electrically Powered Vehicles, for example, emphasized the need and the opportunity for international cooperative programs on pollution abatement.

In this connection OST has taken the lead in assisting the State Department with plans for a Europe-wide meeting of environmental scientists next year to develop realistic collaborative programs in this area. This endeavor will emphasize technological advances in much the same fashion that the international biological program will stress basic scientific research.

Earlier, we made reference to the enormity and complexity of the problems of environmental change. It is predicted that our capability to produce electric power will triple by 1980, reaching 492 billion kilowatts with an output of 2.3 trillion kilowatt-hours. By 1975, it is expected that 105 billion gallons of gasoline will power the 130 million vehicles on our highways.

It is this sheer size and complexity that has led to the frequent suggestion that the use of systems analysis would help to clarify the problems we are facing and point the way to effective solutions. Such methods can be useful at various levels in the hierarchy of problems. For example, the disposal of solid wastes for a community, the abatement of pollution of a single stream, or the multiple problems of management of an entire river basin or airshed. OST has recently undertaken to clarify the benefits and limitations of this approach.

We are in the process of bringing together several of the Nation's foremost authorities in the physical and social sciences who are interested in the environment and understand the problems and techniques of managing large, interrelated regional systems.

We look forward to this effort as a means of moving the day closer when we can more effectively use our vast capabilities to gather, store, and use data; to bring this capability to bear in helping to develop more and improved alternatives to complex multivariable problems from which we can select appropriate responses to our growing environmental concerns.

We cannot delay action, of course, until we are able to lay down a massive, global strategy. We can, however, undertake action programs in the realization that their implications may be far reaching, and be prepared to modify and improve them as our basic understanding and analytical capabilities improve.