

Dr. MIDDLETON. Mr. Chairman, the Division of Air Pollution, recently changed to the National Center for Air Pollution Control, for many years has advocated, in research programs, the development of knowledge which would allow States to move in the area of exercising control of those pollutants they recognize as important adverse factors affecting the public health and welfare.

There are several States in the Nation that have moved in this direction and have adopted ambient air quality standards.

There are many States which contain areas of pollution of some magnitude which have not adopted such standards.

The thrust of the Clean Air Act amendments is to assure that all States become involved in protecting the health and welfare of the people. It is neither the purpose of the Clean Air Act to deter States from moving forward in those areas where they can nor to slow down States that wish to move rapidly to protect their citizens and their property.

Mr. DADDARIO. But that does run counter to your statement where you say, "Since air quality criteria and information on control technology must be published before States can be called upon to begin developing air quality standards." You appear to be putting yourself in a position where the States which wish to go ahead are impeded, and those which do not necessarily want to need not be pushed in that direction. Nor do you have any way to motivate them to begin sooner rather than later.

Dr. MIDDLETON. It would appear that way but it is not.

Mr. DADDARIO. Tell me why.

Dr. MIDDLETON. It would appear to delay action at the State level. These new amendments to the act state that the criteria that are to be published must be properly understood and that the mere publication of criteria does not herald the immediate establishment of standards without some additional information.

Many standards that are adopted in States often are adopted as goals rather than something that is to be legally met; and very often control techniques may not be available to meet the standards States adopt. In an effort to correct this, the amendments to the Air Quality Act bring about two kinds of additional knowledge designed to enhance the capability of States to actually carry out the standards they adopt.

In this regard, you can see they are not inconsistent.

Mr. DADDARIO. Is there any danger that a State which is aggressive and which does move ahead may find itself in the future, perhaps, in a position where its criteria deviates somewhat from that which you have developed, running counter to any aid and assistance which you would give, and be penalized as a result?

Dr. MIDDLETON. I can see the possibility of this. I think it is rather unlikely because the law permits States to have more stringent standards, if they so elect; and there is an opportunity for the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to make a finding about the suitability of these standards.

Mr. BELL. I think what the chairman is thinking of is your statement on page 7, of your prepared statement, which would indicate that you would preclude a State which wanted to be aggressive from being aggressive.