

reach a certain threshold there shall be a stipulated course of action to control those sources.

This course of action that you asked me to describe is not now describable. We are in the process of enumerating, because of the knowledge we have from the basic abatement conference, the principal pollutant sources. We are attempting through the conference recommendations to actually abate those sources in order to forestall having to call for emergency action.

Mr. RYAN. I understand that, but assume that today you issued an advisory notice such as you did on November 23, 1966, what would you do today to avoid a repetition of what happened in 1966, Thanksgiving Day? What would you do now? With all due respect, I do not want to hear about plans for the future which are still to be worked out, but what specific action would you take today?

Dr. MIDDLETON. Our specific action would be to go to the New York area with the man in charge of these emergency actions in the event of this prediction, and to pick up the points you enunciated. Let us assume that we have the prediction that in 24 hours there will be an alert situation. We then see its validation. The air monitoring networks suggest the level of sulfur oxides is rising, and when they rise to some threshold level, some specific number, then a course of abatement action must take place. This course of action is the responsibility of the local air pollution control agent.

Mr. RYAN. Suppose it fails to take action.

Dr. MIDDLETON. If the local group fails to take action, then the Secretary can call upon the Attorney General to ask for a cease and desist order to abate this particular nuisance, this particular problem, this particular disastrous source of pollution affecting the health of persons. It is because we may need a more rapid control action than this that we wish to be assured that the State and local officials in fact do have an implementation control plan and that it is workable. That is why through our control agency development program, when we award matching funds to the city and State of New York, as an example again, Mr. Ryan, we want to be sure that in their workable plan there is a scheme, a plan, which will bear directly upon the new provisions.

Mr. RYAN. Do they have a workable plan today?

Dr. MIDDLETON. I do not know whether Mr. Heller, the Commissioner in that area, now has a workable plan. I believe one is in formation, and I am sure that he expects the important pollution elements to be controlled at that time.

Mr. RYAN. I would think that over a year later there would be a workable plan in effect, and not one in formation. I would hope that your agency would see to it that one is developed as rapidly as possible because we face, in New York, at any time a similar emergency situation.

Mr. DADDARIO. Dr. Middleton, following again Mr. Ryan's question, if we ran into an emergency situation, could you, for example, establish a procedure under the law as it presently exists to prevent all traffic from moving to the city of New York if this situation were deemed to be dangerous enough? How would you do it?

Dr. MIDDLETON. Dr. Blomquist suggests that the city of New York already has a plan of this kind in mind, but if the city of New