

committee is acting most appropriately in trying to ascertain what those problems are likely to be.

In the Air Quality Act, Congress wisely recognized the need to take economic and technologic factors into account in the setting of air quality standards. Thus it provided for consultation between the Secretary of HEW and appropriate technical advisory committees in establishing air quality criteria for use as guidelines by the States in setting standards.

We believe that standards that go beyond protection of public health ought properly to be based on a realistic assessment of the technologic feasibility and economic effects of compliance. In other words, the benefits of more stringent control than that needed to protect health should be commensurate with its cost.

Mr. DADDARIO. Dr. Eckardt, when you say it should be commensurate with its cost, do you mean that, or do you mean that establishing a criteria so that there can be a judgment as to what it will cost, recognizing health and aesthetics and everything else. Then the public can come to a decision what it is willing to pay rather than to assume that somebody in a committee will arbitrarily come to that judgment.

Dr. ECKARDT. That is right.

I would say this is precisely what we mean, that good cost figures should be available.

Because our industry possesses considerable expertise in air quality matters, we look forward to making a meaningful contribution to the scientific deliberations that must precede establishment of air quality criteria and standards.

To better enable our industry spokesmen to participate impartially and effectively in these deliberations, the American Petroleum Institute has arranged for a number of eminent medical and scientific experts to review all previous experimental work pertinent to the establishment of air quality criteria. We have also asked that they give us their independent views as to what might be considered reasonable air quality standards under various conditions—standards that would provide for the protection of health.

Mr. DADDARIO. Could you explain a little bit about how that works? When did they start, how many people are involved?

Dr. ECKARDT. This started about 3 or 4 months ago. The concept arose within our industry. We are collecting together, I would estimate, approximately 20 people. Presumably each individual would be an expert in an area of air pollution. Perhaps in relationship to one or another of the pollutants involved.

Mr. DADDARIO. How many people are you talking about?

Dr. ECKARDT. About 20.

Mr. DADDARIO. Are they doing this on a consultant basis?

Dr. ECKARDT. On a consultant basis, yes, sir.

Mr. DADDARIO. How much money and time is involved, or is this something you will work out as you go along?

Dr. ECKARDT. This is entirely their decision to make. We contacted the experts and asked them what they thought it would take to do the job that we were asking in terms of time and money.

Mr. DADDARIO. You are in the process of working it out. Do you have any idea as to when you might expect to get some results?

Dr. ECKARDT. We are hoping to get some early this spring.