

You talk about scientists and technicians, and yet you leave out the people who turn the switch and who see these things deteriorate around them—people who want to do a better job and cannot.

Dr. WEINBERGER. Mr. Chairman, our agency has last month submitted a report on manpower and training. Again, I would be very happy to make copies of that report available. This report agrees with the chairman completely, that one of the big gaps in our pollution control effort is an effective treatment plant operation. As a matter of fact, in the projections of manpower needs, the greatest need was indicated in the treatment plant operator category. Within our program, we are initiating within the month a technical training program which will supplement our professional training program. The purpose of the technical training program is to help develop institutions or curriculums or courses very much along the line that the chairman has suggested as one of the ways of doing this. We have a number of proposals which we are currently reviewing to help establish perhaps 2-year courses, junior college courses, specialized technical courses, to supplement some of the limited work going on right now at various States and which we are doing in-house.

Mr. DADDARIO. Dr. Weinberger, is it possible to put together some competent teams and have them review the procedures that are going on in certain plants? They could develop a checklist and give the people who are there some information as to what can be done at the moment while such a program of training is going on. Is this something that we should do or not?

Dr. WEINBERGER. Yes, sir; we should do it. It has again been done to a somewhat limited extent. There are some of the manuals, a number of programs, night courses, courses available in some of the high schools, at some of the universities, for operators to receive some of the training. There have been some instruction manuals prepared. One of the areas of research that I dwell on relates to this from the point of view of research and development. One of the things that we are attempting to do is to come up with procedures so that a plant can be operated in a more effective way. It is much more than just the matter of trained manpower. I made the statement that if there is a gap between the research man and the practitioner or the designer, then there is a chasm between the designer and the operator.

Mr. DADDARIO. Which is the point this gentleman makes in his letter to me.

Dr. WEINBERGER. And there are at least two things: what the chairman has suggested is certainly a very critical matter. The second one which we would hope to accomplish through R. & D. is to make it possible to operate our treatment facilities with better control devices, better instrumentation.

Mr. DADDARIO. Are you talking about those plants we will be building or plants presently existing?

Dr. WEINBERGER. Presently existing, sir. There is no reason, with the advances being made in control technology and instrumental methods, why some of these plants cannot be updated so that we can operate these on the basis of their design, at least, which will result in a very significant step forward in pollution control.

Mr. DADDARIO. The updating, however, involves some assessment as to where it is now and what needs to be done. This is a gap that,