

Secretary of the Interior under the Water Quality Act of 1965. [Italics added.]

New York is implementing the treatment requirements called for in the water quality standards as necessary to protect the beneficial water uses and meet the water quality criteria. These requirements provide for significant enhancement of presently polluted waters. Where these requirements are below the 80 to 90 percent BOD reduction level, New York indicates that the affected treatment facilities will be required to upgrade to this level as a second stage in the implementation program.

Mr. DADDARIO. When Dr. Weinberger answers your original question, Mr. Ryan, it appears that others such as this you are working on now will come. We will see to it, when the answer is submitted, our staffs do get together, and you will have an opportunity to ask additional questions so we can resolve this question.

Mr. RYAN. Thank you.

Mr. DADDARIO. Mr. Brown?

Mr. BROWN. I would like to make an observation or two and ask some questions.

For one thing, as far as the technology of water treatment is concerned, I think we are putting undue emphasis perhaps on the technology and not enough emphasis upon the economics. It seems to me the matter is primarily one of economics. Water treatment is probably one of the very few areas where we have had the technology since the invention of fire to produce practically pure water; namely, by evaporation. The question is whether we have the need and the resources to produce pure water in every situation.

I think undoubtedly the situation in New York to provide an additional level of purity beyond what they have apparently scheduled would require probably substantial capital investment and operating costs. The real problem is how much capital investment and operating costs are you willing to put up in order to secure a given degree of purity of water? I think these are the questions that need to be answered, basically, in connection with any discussion of water treatment.

The question I have is really a rather general one based upon an article I read within the last few weeks. I am not even sure where I read it. It was a discussion of a visit of a group of Americans to Russia and a trip down the Volga River. Having an interest in water pollution, I was struck by the fact that the article commented several times that the Volga was a relatively clean river, that they were able to swim in it, that the fishing resources were apparently as great as they ever had been, and that local sewage, what I guess would be municipal and industrial waste, was not permitted into the river.

Is it possible that in Russia and perhaps in other long-developed European countries they have achieved practices which are substantially superior to what we have here in the United States at this time in this field?

Dr. WEINBERGER. Mr. Brown, I have not seen this from personal visits to Western Europe. I think at the present time in most areas of water pollution control, our technology is further advanced than those countries and I think this is explainable due to World War II, when so much of their activity ceased. This is not to imply they would not be making additional contributions. But I do not know of any technology that has been developed or applied or under study in any part of the world that we have not looked at or are looking at.