

Mr. BROWN. Would this necessarily be a question of advanced technology? Could it be just a simple matter of prohibiting industrial and municipal waste going into rivers as in the case of the Volga?

I do not know where it would go, but perhaps into the underground basin in some fashion which would preserve the purity of the river and ultimately it perhaps would pollute the land; I do not know. But it does not necessarily have to be a technology problem. It would be a standards problem.

Dr. WEINBERGER. I think it is also a matter of institutional arrangements. I think we get back to perhaps some of the points Mr. Fulton was raising in terms of the management of the waste, management of industry, management of location, the whole decision process of what you permit people to do and not do. There are some management practices, institutional arrangements in parts of Europe which we have looked at and, as you gentlemen are probably aware, the Ruhr and Emscher river systems have been extensively looked at because of the way in which the Germans manage those two rivers.

Mr. Brown. Do you know anything about the conditions of the Rhine? Is it a comparable situation to, say, the Hudson or something of that sort?

Dr. WEINBERGER. My simple answer would be to say the Rhine is polluted. I do not think we could make a comparison to the Hudson. I happen to think there are some parts of the Hudson which are much prettier than the Rhine and in better shape than the Rhine. On the other hand, one could say there are some parts of the Hudson that are more polluted than parts of the Rhine. But the Rhine is basically a polluted river.

Mr. BROWN. I think one of the general points I want to arrive at is the degree to which we are considering in our development in water pollution control the standards and achievements which have been reached in the rest of the developed world. Is this an input into our study? Do we have good comparative studies of what is going on in these other countries in terms of results as well as technology?

Dr. WEINBERGER. Reasonably well, Mr. Brown. I say reasonably well. This gets into our problem of information exchange. But we have a number of bilateral and multilateral agreements whereby we are able to get this information.

Mr. BROWN. There could be some very sound political reasons to get this. You know about 95 percent of our R. & D. money is justified on the grounds of a gap between us and the Russians. If you could show us a pollution gap, for example, you might be able to justify a very large increase in funds for the program. I have no further questions.

Mr. DADDARIO. Dr. Weinberger, is it not difficult to come to some assessment about all of this? As I understand it, our staff did some work in investigating some of these places. We think others are doing better than we are doing, and they think we are doing a lot better than they are doing.

You take the Rhine. It is polluted, as you say, but less polluted than people expect it to be. The reason for this is that they allow other rivers in the area to be more polluted and in that way take some of the strain off the Rhine. Therefore, they are shifting the problems around. In the final analysis, their situation is probably worse than ours.