

Mr. DADDARIO. When you talk about safety factors, there is a safety factor upon which we can develop our existing knowledge. Do you put a cost-effectiveness price on that safety factor? Do you reach a point where not knowing what might happen we ought to be willing to pay something in order to prevent this from coming about?

Dr. WEINBERGER. The economics certainly come into play. There is no question but that when one develops control procedures that are inexpensive to carry out we do that even if we cannot demonstrate conclusively that this really results in improved water based on any physiological response. We have done that in the case of our present treatment technology for ordinary water.

So that let me try to give again an example of this, if I may.

Some of our earlier work indicated that a material killed fish. If at that time our techniques only really involved being able to determine the concentration which kills or does not kill a fish, that is pretty crude as a measure.

More recent work indicated that that same metal at one-tenth of a concentration made the fish sterile. This is the same, if you will, as killing the species outright.

If you will, if we had taken the initial value, we should have had at least a factor of 10, based on a lethal rate. Having reached now the figure of a tenth, the question is, with our limited knowledge how much lower than that should we go in the absence of scientific knowledge. We proceed very cautiously in requiring any lower value as a standard.

Mr. Chairman, I don't have the answers. There is obviously constant battle not only in water pollution but in any other field affecting health and well-being, welfare, constant battle as to how safe you must be, how safe can you afford to be.

Mr. DADDARIO. Dr. Weinberger, we don't ask you these questions because we believe you can give us a precise answer. There is much more that needs to be understood about it. We have to have more and better definitions from you people who are in fact going to handle all of this. This is why we ask these questions.

I would like to just go into this business——

Mr. RYAN. Could I ask a question?

Mr. DADDARIO. I have just one more question following this same line, and then I will recognize you.

As you apply your criteria, have you run into this situation? Or if you have not, what would you do if you do run into it. What would you do if you find a community or a State in a position where they do not have financial ability to handle this kind of activity? What do you do then to give them the hand necessary to develop their capital capability to handle these problems?

Take New York City, for example. If New York City were to say to you, "We would like to improve the percentage of removal that Mr. Ryan was talking about, but we just can't afford it. We can afford to get up to 70 percent, but not 85 or 90 percent." How do you give them a helping hand, or can't you?

Dr. WEINBERGER. The amount of help that we can provide is quite limited. We do have a construction grant program which is made