

In direct response to your question, Mr. Chairman, we know much. We don't know enough. We are moving in the direction of learning more.

Mr. DADDARIO. You are talking about vast amounts of water which in fact amount to a very valuable resource, which we know very little about?

Dr. PECORA. Yes. I think the point that I should make is that we have the potential now of making an overall survey of the value of this invisible supply of water.

Mr. DADDARIO. You have the potential which means the capability. Do you have enough money to do it?

Dr. PECORA. Talent, I think, is more important than money at this time in this subject area. This may surprise some Members of Congress to hear this kind of a statement.

Mr. DADDARIO. No; it does not. We find the manpower situation is the reason we sometimes have a problem. We were not able to anticipate the need or deal with it in advance.

Dr. PECORA. Yes.

A few decades ago our group in the Geological Survey developed what we call the science of underground hydrology. We have been working with the universities to help develop new talent in the subject area as well as with our international associates.

We feel this is an area of great possibility and potential for the people on this earth. We intend to push in the direction of acquisition of more and better information about the ground water supply so that this resource can be integrated properly with the surface water supply in all management decisions.

Mr. DADDARIO. I had assumed when you said you had the potential to do this that you had the manpower to do it. Your statement then is that we have the potential and the background knowledge, but we need to develop manpower and support in order to get this job done. You believe it valuable enough so that we do this?

Dr. PECORA. That is exactly it; we need to develop more talent in order to do more of this kind of work, and we are capable of doing this.

Mr. FULTON. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DADDARIO. Mr. Fulton.

Mr. FULTON. Do you look into the question of the water table and ground-water pollution in your work?

Dr. PECORA. Yes. This is part of our general jurisdiction, the monitoring of the quality of water in all of its locations. It is a rather important part of our work.

Mr. FULTON. Why should you and Dr. Weinberger not be working in the same shop?

Dr. PECORA. We are both in the Department of Interior.

Mr. FULTON. Yes; but I said why is it divided in the Department of Interior?

Dr. PECORA. May I refer to the national water data coordination effort which was set up through the Bureau of the Budget Circular A-67, a well-known circular among water users. The acquisition of water data and its storage in a computer system for general output is a joint effort between the Federal Water Pollution Control Admin-