

may get into in handling other pollutants may tip it in favor of knowing what they are faced with on the nuclear side.

Mr. MOSHER. Even the uncertainties of what Congress might do?

Dr. TAPE. That is right. To be sure, it is economics; but I think it is the uncertainty of the economics more than it is actually pricing out these differences.

Mr. DADDARIO. This is, however, a choice. You talk about New England. As I understand the New England situation, as we go ahead into nuclear development for the creation of electricity, there is simultaneous growth in the use of fossil fuel development. They go side by side.

Dr. LIEBERMAN. This is quite right.

Mr. DADDARIO. The increase of one is not actually at the expense of the other.

Dr. LIEBERMAN. That is quite right, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DADDARIO. Therefore, the pollution problem which presently exists is still a problem, on the one hand, and the fact that you are running along in tandem is for other reasons.

Dr. TAPE. One of the major reasons for the rapid growth of nuclear power, I think, is that there has been rapid growth in the whole electrical power demand. So, what we are doing is entering a market at a time when the whole market is growing significantly.

Mr. DADDARIO. Yes. That is the overriding factor—

Dr. TAPE. It is the overriding factor.

Mr. DADDARIO. Having made a determination to go nuclear only because it was a clean way.

Dr. LIEBERMAN. In certain situations this has been the case. I think all the estimates indicate that in the future the use of fossil fuels for the production of electrical power also will increase. So, I think the point you make is certainly a valid one, that the electrical demand will require the utilization of essentially all the resources we have, both nuclear and fossil fuels. So, I think it an important, and I believe, necessary conclusion, to note that the advent of increasing nuclear power, while we think it can make a significant contribution to the alleviation of these problems, will not by itself completely eliminate the problem.

Mr. DADDARIO. I would say that is a very important statement. It ought to be taken into consideration with what the Commissioner has said. To meet the demand will require the use of all of our resources, and we have come to the point in a short period of time where we have looked to the nuclear production of electricity as a resource.

Dr. LIEBERMAN. The safety and waste management record of commercial plants has been and continues to be excellent. I think the record will show, for example, in the area of effluent control, the quantities and concentrations of radioactive materials that have been released into the environment have been well within, that is, less than 10 percent of, established radiation protection limits.

Mr. DADDARIO. How do you establish the 10-percent limit? Are you absolutely sure of this, or is this a guess?

Dr. LIEBERMAN. No. This is not a guess.

Mr. DADDARIO. Has there been the research necessary to be absolutely sure that dosages of less than 10 percent will not be harmful?