

Mr. DADDARIO. Can we assume from that that is a serious problem?

Mr. VAUGHAN. I don't know how serious it is. This is what we are trying to find out.

Mr. DADDARIO. We don't know how serious it is. Then we are in an area where there is the possibility we have a dangerous situation. Therefore, we would need to develop new techniques altogether for the storage of such solid wastes.

Mr. VAUGHAN. That is correct. That is the purpose of our work there. To more fully understand this problem and, if necessary, develop operational procedures which control or eliminate it.

Mr. DADDARIO. As of the moment we haphazardly dump waste and, as we have in the past, assume that it is going to be safe when there are indications that it is not.

Mr. VAUGHAN. There have been some intimations it might be a dangerous problem in very specific circumstances. I don't fully understand this. Most of the complaints have been from odors.

Mr. DADDARIO. It is certainly something that ought to be ascertained?

Mr. VAUGHAN. Yes, sir; it sure is. We are proceeding on this.

Mr. DADDARIO. If it is, since it is an offensive odor, it might be dangerous and there is sufficient reason for us to be concerned?

Mr. VAUGHAN. This is the reason for our undertaking this work.

Mr. DADDARIO. Again, if you could provide for the record how you are structured in order to take care of this, who is involved, and what kind of a future commitment do you need to make from the management point of view and whatever else goes with that, to overcome that problem?

Mr. VAUGHAN. All right.

The Public Health Service is approaching these problems on the basis that land disposal properly designed and conducted is an exceptionally desirable form of solid waste disposal. Air and water pollution are effectively controlled and land reclamation can be accomplished. I cannot say enough about the potential of land reclamation through the disposal of solid wastes. The State of Maryland partially supported by a solid waste demonstration grant is showing how solid waste can be used to reclaim strip mines. This could change a blight of America into a precious asset and at the same time effectively deal with a pressing community problem—solid waste disposal. Another demonstration grant to the Chicago Sanitary District will show how sewage sludge after its removal from waste water can be transported to low cost land and converted into a profitable resource of agricultural and recreational purposes. Perhaps the most infamous example of solid waste disposal, the Kenilworth dump in Washington, D.C., is being converted into a model sanitary landfill operation which will ultimately be transformed into a tree-lined, grass-covered park and recreational area. There is no reason why necessary community functions cannot result in a community asset if technology can but respond to the challenge.

The high cost of transporting solid waste to available land has limited use of land reclamation techniques especially in the eastern part of the United States where these distances can be substantial. A Public Health Service demonstration grant to the American Public Works Association is partially supporting a study and demonstration of the use of railroad facilities to haul solid waste from crowded