of the piles of taconite which are part of the solid waste management problem. And it will minimize the cost of both of these objectives.

The problem, however, is the one that Mr. Vaughan has identified: How can these junk automobiles be transported to the site where they can be most effectively used or disposed of?

Mr. DADDARIO. Mr. Vaughan.

Mr. VAUGHAN. To continue, the incinerator developed by the research contract is now being constructed as a demonstration project at Stamford, Conn. The contract mechanism is being used to develop effective ways of dismantling old railroad cars to eliminate air pollution caused by burning these vehicles in the open.

Mr. DADDARIO. We have plenty of old railroad cars.

Mr. VAUGHAN. We sure have.

One approach is a special technique which eliminates burning altogether. A jet of high pressure water is used to cut through the wood and separate the metal fittings from the body of the car. This technique is being further investigated to see see if it might have value in stripping unwanted material—rubber, upholstery, et cetera—from abandoned automobiles prior to their disposal without utilizing incineration techniques. The technique might also be used to reduce the volume of bulky wastes.

A very special problem is now facing those in the Nation concerned with the disposal of solid wastes. This is the problem associated with packaging materials and disposable containers. The problem is really twofold. First, the increased use of this material in recent years has caused a significant increase in the volume of sold wastes that must be handled by the community; and, second, the nature of the disposable material is such that much of it is not amenable to decomposition and, therefore, presents special disposal problems. "Eternal" plastic and "unrustable" aluminum have made their way into solid waste technology and must be coped with if we are to effectively manage solid wastes.

A contract was awarded to study feasible methods of disposing of polyethylene plastic waste while another contract was awarded to the Midwest Research Institute to make a thorough study of packaging materials, trends in this industry, and possible solutions which would be amenable to solid waste disposal without hurting the industry. A part of this study includes the consideration of needed legislative programs to cope with this problem. I shall refrain from further comment on this subject since this committee will hear from a representative of Midwest Research on this important problem. When this study is received, it will be evaluated by our technical personnel and our future course of action determined.

The Solid Waste Disposal Act also directs the recover and utilization of potential resources in solid wastes. Transformation of solid waste into a beneficial product has the advantage of disposing of a waste product, conservation of natural resources, and economic benefit which lowers the net cost of disposal.

A Public Health Service research grant to the University of Florida is supporting development of a method to convert citrus processing plant waste to citric acid. Another research grant to the University of Maryland is supporting investigation of the possibility of transforming wastes formed in the production, packaging, and canning of vegetables and cheese, to new foods or food additives.