

reach out and find ourselves saying things we ought not to. When we do—it is something we are all guilty of from time to time—we then spend more time working our way out of it than it is worth. We are at the time and place in this whole area of pollution where I think we can be extremely realistic. We must be.

Mr. VAUGHAN. Yes.

Our research studies include investigation of the hazardous materials in refuse, pathogens associated with incineration processes, and occupational hazards of solid waste handling. One might assume that the residue following incineration would be almost sterile. Preliminary investigation by our staff has discovered this is not necessarily true and surveys at several plants indicate gross contamination of this material with pathogenic organisms. Further investigation will determine the magnitude and applicability of this finding and hopefully develop an effective way of using this technique to determine the effectiveness of incinerator operation.

The studies of the occupational hazards of solid waste handling are being jointly undertaken by the research staffs of both the occupational health program and the solid wastes program of the National Center for Urban and Industrial Health, and will be devoted to reducing the accident and disease rate by pointing out defects in present technology which contribute to these rates. The studies will also help in the development of technology which is both effective, economic, and safe.

The most advanced technology can be used to develop a magnificent incinerator or sanitary landfill or compost plant capable of doing the job economically and effectively, but if it is not operated properly you have not accomplished a thing. In our rapidly changing world, great stress is placed upon new technology and scientific achievement, but woefully little attention is given to teaching the man who must operate the facility how to run it and making sure he does a good job. New technology is needed in this area just as much as in those areas normally considered scientific. How do we assure proper operation of multi-million-dollar structures?

The American Public Works Association is developing for the Public Health Service a comprehensive blueprint for the training of operating personnel in the field of solid waste disposal. This project, supported by a Public Health Service contract, will also identify and measure training needs to help guide those who will carry out such training. The technical staff of the Public Health Service's solid waste program is currently developing guidelines for the operation of sanitary landfill and incinerators using well-known authorities in these areas as consultants. Both reports are to be completed this year.

Perhaps the most difficult obstacle in getting new technology adopted and implemented is the reluctance of the public to accept solid waste disposal in the communities and the equally severe reluctance of communities to work cooperatively together to come up with one approach to solid waste management that is best for all the municipalities which make up a region or metropolitan area. People want their solid wastes problems solved but not near their home or near their community. Many small suburban communities know they could get by more economically by combining forces with others, but many times prefer to go it alone to preserve their autonomy.

The Public Health Service, through public information technology, is trying to gain public recognition of the solid waste problems and