

gain public support for local solution to these problems. Certain demonstration projects such as the transformation of the Kenilworth dump to a model operation and land reclamation activity are designed to gain public support for proper solid waste management. A contract with the National Association of Counties is developing a program designed to educate public officials in solid waste needs, problems, and solutions.

Stimulating communities to work together on a regional or metropolitan basis is being approached by the Public Health Service's solid wastes program through the mechanism of study and investigation grants to demonstrate how communities overcome the legal, interjurisdictional, and public opinion difficulties in approaching their common solid waste problems on a regional basis. The regions being studied include metropolitan areas such as Louisville, Ky.; Erie, Pa.; New Orleans, La.; Des Moines, Iowa, and Oklahoma City, Okla. They also include entire counties such as Maricopa County, Ariz.; Fresno County, Calif.; Genesee County, Mich.; Jefferson County, Wis.; and Harrison County, Miss. Low population density regional areas are included such as the area near Farmington, Conn., and Great Falls, Mont.

The studies also include special regional areas such as the Tocks Island Recreational Area encompassing part of three States, several economically depressed counties in Appalachia, and the Quad-City area in New Jersey. The results of these studies will bring to light approaches which can be used by other communities with similar problems and similar circumstances, thus improving psychometric technology and providing answers which quite frankly have us and most of the country stymied at the present time.

I have pointed out to you many problem areas and have described our approach to their better understanding and solution. I am confident methods will be found which will allow air and water pollution control criteria to be met—methods which are technologically sound, economically feasible, and safe from the standpoint of protection of the public health and our environment.

Lest my remarks here today be interpreted as a deterrent to the use of current technology to solve existing solid waste management problems until a major breakthrough is made, let me set this issue straight right now.

There are no legitimate reasons (except perhaps financial) to hold up the immediate elimination of open burning dumps. The remodeling or replacement of antiquated incineration facilities without effective air pollution control devices, the abandonment of open broken-down collection vehicles which spew solid wastes along the route to the disposal site, and the cessation of feeding garbage to hogs. The Nation can improve its solid waste disposal practices—and it can do it now. We have the technology to do it now—and we are working to improve this technology and develop techniques which are not only more effective but more economical as well.

I feel personal sadness when I consider that the beautiful whooping crane is close to extinction. On the other hand, I look forward with a great deal of zeal, enthusiasm, and pleasure to one of the goals of the solid wastes program—the elimination of the open burning dump from our society. This disgrace to humanity truly belongs to history, not to the present, and certainly not to the future.