

Mr. DADDARIO. Will you proceed, Mr. Darnay?

Chairman MILLER. May I ask a question?

Mr. DADDARIO. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman MILLER. I am very much concerned with the disposal of waste. My city of Alameda used to open-burn, but the area air pollution board stopped us. The first thing the mayor did was to scream to high heaven that as the result of stopping this burning, we were going to have rats, but somehow or another we stopped the burning, improved the method of cover, and I do not think we have had so many rats. But this is not the point I want to get at.

How many disposable bottles from soft drinks and beer and other things are distributed today in this country?

Mr. VAUGHAN. I do not have that information, Mr. Miller but I think Mr. Darnay has.

Mr. DARNAY. I believe I can answer that. Perhaps not on a day-by-day basis, but we have some data on the total.

Chairman MILLER. If you have that in your paper——

Mr. DARNAY. It is in my statement; yes, sir.

Chairman MILLER. I had a discussion with a man when I was home this year about our own East Bay area in California. He is a distributor of beer. I said, "How many disposable bottles do you think you distribute a day?"

He said about 50,000. He is talking of a population area of a million and a half to two million people. I do not think that is too far out. It may be correct for beer, but how many bottles of Coca-Cola and Pepsi Cola and all of these other things that we now buy in disposable bottles, are there? How long will we find places to hide this material? If you have cellulose material or something of vegetable material, they will eventually disintegrate. A few archeologists 10,000 years from now will run across a mass of these bottles and wonder what they were used for. They may be here for 10,000 years. They still find the resin the Greeks were putting in their wines 5,000 years ago.

What are we going to do with this?

Mr. VAUGHAN. This is a very serious problem, and is one of the reasons we let a contract with Midwest Research to come up with some answers which will be reported on today.

Chairman MILLER. It is more economical to use a disposable bottle because if you return the bottle, it has to be sterilized before it can be reused. So somebody is making a better profit by using so-called disposable bottles.

Should not perhaps the people share some of this profit with the Government to help dispose of the bottles they use? Should we put a tax on them?

Mr. DAVIS. Charge them a dumpage fee.

Chairman MILLER. Some type of a fee, because the fellow is making money since he does not have to bring the bottles back and take care of them. It is cheaper for him to buy new bottles than to reuse them.

There was a time during World War II if you wanted to get a six-pack of Coca-Cola, you had to bring back six empty Coca-Cola bottles. Now you do not need bottles.

Mr. DAVIS. If the gentleman will yield very briefly, there is coming into government a concept known as a dumpage fee, which is be-