

ginning to apply to such things as air pollution and water pollution, which might well be applied to solid waste disposal.

Mr. VAUGHAN. This concept, I understand, is used now in the Ruhr River Basin in Germany. You pay on the basis of how much you use, or the magnitude of the problem your wastes might cause.

Mr. DAVIS. Yes.

Chairman MILLER. I think this is one of the things that has to be looked at. Of course, I realize the bottle manufacturers will raise the dickens if you get into this dumpage fee, but why not face it squarely.

Mr. VAUGHAN. One of the more interesting statistics is that the per capita solid waste contribution in this country has doubled in the last 25 years, and to a large part, because of such problems as packaging material, disposable bottles, tin cans, and aluminum cans.

Mr. DARNAY. May I comment on your question?

Chairman MILLER. Yes.

Mr. DARNAY. I believe the concept of a disposal fee that you mention is quite reasonable. Such a fee is one of the things we are going to recommend in our study to the solid waste program.

I ought to, also, at the same time, point out that industry is not alone in guilt in this entire question of disposable bottles. The American consumer likes to have a disposable type of container. As a consequence, even returnable type of bottles have been thrown away. We are a very affluent and hedonistic society, or at least we are becoming such a society. As a consequence, the penny-conscious youngsters are disappearing, and the housewife, on the other hand, does not wish to lug many different cartons of bottles back to the store. This is at the root of the popularity of nonreturnable containers.

Chairman MILLER. I think this is very true and I accept it, but because my wife does not want to lug bottles back to the store, is that any reason why Mr. Carpenter, for example, should pay an increment of tax to take care of things she does not want to do, or other wives do not want to do? I think one way of measuring it would be to put the tax perhaps on the bottle, but it is not the fault entirely of the consumer. We like to get rid of bottles all right. But I think it is a new thing, this business of disposable bottles. It is going to give us one of the greatest headaches in the next 10 years that we are going to face.

Mr. DADDARIO. Mr. Darnay, do you presume in this recommendation that you may make, there will be a tax on people in industry, that they will pay a tax to a system which we will have developed to properly dispose of the material they are dumping. The fact remains at the moment, a lot of people are paying tax by paying the fine which comes about as a result of dumping materials into a dump or into a river, and yet the pollution problem is not in any way abated.

Mr. DARNAY. That is true. The concept that we have developed would work somewhat like this: when you purchase color film, for instance, you purchase the processing of the film when you buy it. Conceivably, when you purchase a particular commodity, you could at the same time pay for the disposal of the packaging in which it comes. This would work best on a local level where the local conditions are known, let us say in a fairly large city or jurisdiction. The money collected on the containers could be routed directly to local disposal operators and could perhaps even pay for some of the innovations and some of the improvements that are necessary.