

Mr. DADDARIO. What is your feeling about this relationship you have developed where you are both working on this problem? Is it a proper relationship, is it a sensible one?

Mr. VAUGHAN. I think it is a proper one, yes. I hope we can make it even more so. I am fairly new to the job. It is my intention to make it even more profitable.

Mr. DADDARIO. I wonder if we might have, since we do have the memorandum of agreement in the record, a breakdown of the people who are involved with it in both areas and just how the liaison is set up through a committee or otherwise?

Dr. HIBBARD. This information is in the agreement.

Mr. DAVIS. If I may ask one more question. Maybe this is Mr. Vaughan's question. In the question of composts, is that limited to vegetable wastes?

Mr. VAUGHAN. No.

Mr. DAVIS. Is it possible to compost paper products, for example?

Mr. VAUGHAN. Some, yes.

Mr. DAVIS. It is pretty slow, is it not?

Mr. VAUGHAN. Yes, it is. The cardboard boxes are more difficult, but paper can be ground up.

Mr. DAVIS. Is it slower than wood would be?

Mr. VAUGHAN. No; it is not as slow as wood would be.

The process consists of separating bulky items that cannot be composted or are difficult to compost such as plastics and large cardboard boxes.

Mr. DAVIS. How long would it take to compost a pasteboard box?

Mr. VAUGHAN. I cannot give you an exact estimate but I would say approximately a couple of months.

Mr. DAVIS. That is not too long.

Mr. VAUGHAN. No. It depends on its size and thickness and also on the effectiveness of the grinding mechanism. One of the most important things in composting, after separation of the unwanted material, is through grinding and moisture control. You must keep it moist and stir it up. From that point, some people put it into a tank and add air to it to accelerate the compost. Others let nature do this by putting it out in windows, keeping the moisture content proper, and turning it over from time to time to make sure it has enough oxygen so it won't smell. This changes it into humus material, which is not a fertilizer but can be used as a soil conditioner.

Mr. DAVIS. Or as a mulch.

Mr. VAUGHAN. Yes. The final processing, maybe 2 or 3 weeks later, is grinding to a desirable consistency for application.

Mr. DAVIS. Would you consider that such things as insecticides, DDT, and things of that kind might enter into the effectiveness of composting?

Mr. VAUGHAN. If the volume of insecticides that got mixed in the wastes, were big enough, it could interfere with the bacterial action that takes place. From a practical standpoint, I doubt if this would occur unless you had a very unusual situation. There are some areas where the contribution of this type of waste to the percentage of the solid waste is very high.

Mr. DAVIS. Thank you.