

I am also manager of planning for the food products division of the Union Carbide Corp.

Accompanying me are Dr. Milton Harris, chairman of the American Chemical Society's Board of Directors and retired vice president for research of the Gillette Co.; Dr. Charles C. Price, chairman of the American Chemical Society's Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs and university professor of chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania; Dr. B. R. Stanerson, executive secretary of the ACS; and Dr. Stephen T. Quigley, director of the society's office of chemistry and public affairs.

Mr. DADDARIO. Dr. Cooke, the other gentlemen, who are here, should not feel inhibited in any way. They feel they have something to say. They should volunteer to do so.

Dr. COOKE. Thank you, we appreciate that opportunity. And also we appreciate very much the opportunity to discuss with your subcommittee the work of the American Chemical Society study project on the science and technology of environmental improvement.

I will begin by describing the origin of our committee on chemistry and public affairs. The basis of the committee lies in the charter of the American Chemical Society. The ACS charter was granted by your predecessors in Congress in 1937, and it says in part that one of the objectives of the society should be "by its meetings, professional contacts, reports, papers, discussions, and publications, to promote scientific interests and inquiry, thereby fostering public welfare and education, aiding the development of our country's industries, and adding to the material prosperity and happiness of our people."

The society, as you may know, has been doing things of this sort for many years through local, regional, and national meetings, publications, and other activities. However, with the steady growth of the American Chemical Society—we now have about 110,000 member chemists and chemical engineers—the society's responsibilities have increased.

In a technological world in which chemistry plays an exceedingly important part, the role which the society must play has been re-evaluated. Thus in 1965 the ACS Board of Directors decided to form a new operating entity, the committee on chemistry and public affairs.

In support of the committee's main responsibility to help fulfill the obligations imposed on the society by the national charter, the committee was charged with the responsibility: "to initiate and conduct studies and prepare and publicize to the membership and the public reports on problems involving the role of chemistry in public affairs."

Now, having provided some background on the why and the when of the ACS Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs, I will bypass the events which lead up to the purpose of our visit here today. Later, I will speak to some aspects of this bypassed experience. However, one of the first actions of the new Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs was to respond to the so-called Tukey report "Restoring the Quality of Our Environment." Our response has been to question and to experiment in order to determine the need for ACS action, and after validating the need, determine the direction and the mechanism for a society effort in this critical problem area. This mechanism is perhaps best introduced by permitting it to speak for itself. I will read to you from the preface of the society's report on "The Science and Technology of Environmental Improvement" which report is now in preparation.