

Department necessary data to establish their levels of safety and recommend the kinds of decisions that need to be made, for the Department to develop the criteria and establish standards to apply to items.

As I said in my statement, if it is to be achieved, if this kind of a goal is to be achieved, it seems almost mandatory that there have to exist in one fashion or another something which we did not at the time of writing this report really conceive, and that is a mechanism for testing, for evaluating the data, the development of data.

I spoke of the independent nonprofit testing agencies that would have to exist. I don't know if that is the only answer or the best answer to it. But the smaller, medium-size companies who do market or use these type of things, find themselves in extremely difficult situations if they had to conduct the testing themselves. I don't think it is possible to create within the Department an agency, with the manpower, and with the capability to do the entire job. I don't think we have the resources to devote to that.

But this is essentially the concept of how that would be implemented.

Mr. DADDARIO. Would some kind of an approval, in testing the mechanism, be made?

Mr. LINTON. Right.

Mr. DADDARIO. You don't think the product liability laws as they presently exist assure the quality of protection that you are interested in?

Mr. LINTON. No, sir. Our judgment was that more serious than at present, would be the developments of the future, and that if the changes that have occurred in the last 25 years in the sophistication of our products and our processes, are a test the sophistication will be even greater in the years ahead. And that a safety mechanism is required to, as best as possible, protect human health and welfare. It was certainly not believed, and I don't believe, you are going to guarantee that under no circumstances will there be any products or materials or trace metals produced and marketed which may not cause a problem. I don't think human beings are capable of solving and protecting themselves in an absolute fashion against anything. This was not designed as some people have suggested subsequently that this was an absolutely safety measure. It is designed as a fire department, as the best means of protection, but with clear understanding it is not going to guarantee safety.

Mr. DADDARIO. Last year, Mr. Linton, Chairman Harris raised the point that I think leads into your hopes and ambitions for goal 3, on garbage and solid waste disposal. He wanted to make it clear that the purpose of the program was not to subsidize the solid waste disposal. He said that the Federal Government is not going to assume the responsibility and the obligation for disposal of garbage and all solid waste, and so forth. He wanted to make sure the purpose was to do some research in the area and that was all.

When you talk of grant and aid programs for solid waste disposals at the local level, aren't you in fact moving in the direction of subsidizing such disposal contrary to Mr. Harris' limitation?

Mr. LINTON. Yes, sir; we did. We did move in the opposite direction. The judgment of the task force was that the experience in the water