

pollution field, of providing grants for sewage treatment plants, was an appropriate direction for the Government to move in. Assisting the local governments in handling the increasing problem of disposal of solid waste in the same manner is valid.

Without questioning the validity of Senator Harris' position, but merely expressing myself in the terms of the task force's feeling, the judgment was that the city governments, county governments, and regional agencies, were not able at this time to carry the full burden of the financing of governmental installations to dispose of solid waste. This is true whether by incinerator or landfill, or whatever technique is developed, this wasn't designed just simply for creation of incinerators. Our view was that it was appropriate to do this in solid waste, as it was to do it with sewage treatment plants.

Mr. DADDARIO. I raised that only because in the formation of the legislation, Senator Harris, who had a great deal to do with it, raised these points, and because of the direction you are moving in. I think it ought to be thought about seriously.

Mr. LINTON. In 1965, the solid waste disposal act was recommended to the Congress by the administration. At that time I was chief clerk and staff director of the Committee on Public Works of the Senate. We revised that legislation to include a grant-in-aid construction program for incinerators. It was taken out after the Department convinced the chairman of the subcommittee handling the bill that they needed to spend several years in research before investing substantial amounts of moneys in incinerators that would become outdated.

I think it has become apparent now in the Department that by the time they reach the point of developing their research, the facilities that would have been built in these few years would have outlived their economic usefulness anyway. The result now is that we have neither. And I think that we are much better off spending some money over the next few years building incinerators where they are really needed, and then replacing them in 25 or 30 years, than we are waiting until we have produced the technology that eliminates the needs of these incinerators, or provides for improved incinerators.

I think there is too much of a tendency to wait until we have perfect answers before we act. With the result, we go for an extended period of time with less than what we could do at the moment.

Mr. DADDARIO. I think that is, of course, a tendency.

Mr. LINTON. We don't do it, Mr. Chairman, in the Defense Department. There we go right ahead, under the euphanism of national security, and we spend millions and millions and millions of dollars on equipment and material which within a few years is outdated or discovered to be of no value.

Mr. DADDARIO. Precisely for that reason you can't use the Defense Department as an analogy, because you don't have that room to move around in. Therefore, you have to do it in a different way.

Mr. LINTON. We don't because we apparently, as human beings in the United States, just don't place protection of our own health and welfare at the same level as the protection of our national security.

Chairman MILLER. Is that the responsibility of Congress or should the medical and the biological professions, through the medium of education, tell him about that?

Mr. LINTON. Absolutely, Mr. Miller.