

The responsibilities and composition of the Environmental Studies Board were described in the announcement made on March 3, 1967, by Dr. Frederick Seitz, President of the National Academy of Sciences, and Dr. Eric Walker, President of the National Academy of Engineering. A copy of this announcement is attached as exhibit A. One of the original members of the Board, Dr. John Perkins, resigned in June 1967, when he left the University of Delaware to become president of Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., and Dr. Harvey Perloff, economist on the staff of Resources for the Future, Inc., was appointed to take his place. Subsequently, two additional appointments to the Board have been made. Dr. Hendrik W. Bode, professor of systems engineering at Harvard University and formerly vice president of the Bell Laboratories, and Dr. G. Evelyn Hutchinson, professor of zoology at Yale University.

At its first meeting the Board discussed its responsibilities and functions. I quote from the minutes of that meeting:

It was generally agreed that the Board may:

- a. Serve as a focal center of the NRC activities underway or potentially so, in the broad field of environmental problems.
- b. Serve as a source of recommendations for additional work to be done either by the two Academies or by a branch of the Government.
- c. Serve as a central source to serve the legislative and executive branches of Government which may come to the NAS-NAE to find out what might be done to help solve problems, or how to work cooperatively with agencies.
- d. Provide a means of contact between local agencies and centralized centers of scientific activities, such as the Academies.
- e. Serve as an "impedance-matching device" in the sense of promoting understanding and cooperation among the scientists, engineers, lawyers, statesmen and the man-on-the-street concerned with the complex problems of man's environment. By way of this Board the language from one group to another might well be translated, and it was agreed that this is one of the most important things the Board can do.

You can see, Mr. Chairman, we are taking seriously the charge that you have put to the scientific community in your previous statements and reports, and we do think that it is our responsibility to include not only the physical and biological sciences, but also the social sciences and economics, and all the political implications of the problems of the environment.

It was agreed that the Board would work through the divisions of the National Research Council to the maximum extent. The Board, of course, has the authority to establish committees and panels as required to carry out its responsibilities. The Board felt it should call on the services of behavioral scientists, political scientists, economists, and ecologists as well as physical scientists and engineers.

The consensus of the Board was to limit its considerations to problems arising from the physical interactions of the individual with his environment. It was agreed that the Board would look not only at possible short term solutions but would also concern itself with possibilities which go beyond the technical/legal solutions now possible.

We also decided that although our charter covered the whole range of environmental problems, those concerning pollution were the most most pressing and that we should devote our initial attention to them. It seemed to us that one of the urgent needs was to provide a mechanism whereby current engineering knowledge could be made available to