

social sciences with each other and with the hard realities of politics and public opinions and pressures. Contacts with the Government relating to such longer range and complex problems would be made through our Board.

That, essentially, is a statement of the procedures we have chosen to operate under, Mr. Chairman, in this type of committee structure we have set up. I would now propose to discuss a few specific examples of what is happening in that realm.

As soon as one becomes involved in any one of the specific problems of the pollution of the environment it becomes apparent that no one problem can be treated in isolation. Methods for waste disposal, whether they are concerned with gases, liquids or solids, interact with each other; incineration of solids can cause contamination of the air, sanitary fills can cause contamination of water supplies, substitutes for incineration, such as maceration, can increase the load on water purification systems. Nevertheless, the technologies for the handling of gases, of liquids and of solids are fairly distinct from each other and furthermore, the delegations of authority and responsibility to the various Federal agencies divide this responsibility along the three lines of air, water and solid waste (with, unfortunately, some overlapping).

In spite of our consciousness of the interrelated aspects of these problems we thought it essential to provide engineering in these conventionally separated compartments in order to facilitate communication with those responsible for each of these areas.

We have, accordingly, set up four ad hoc, engineering oriented, committees to deal with air, water, solid wastes and noise. The membership of each of these committees is given in exhibit B.

(The documents, exhibits A and B referred to, are as follows:)

EXHIBIT A

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES—NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

WASHINGTON.—Citing the rapidly increasing national concern about the quality of the environment, Dr. Frederick Seitz, President of the National Academy of Sciences, and Dr. Eric Walker, President of the National Academy of Engineering, announced today the establishment of an Environmental Studies Board to coordinate all activities of the two organizations in this area, to work directly with the legislative and executive branches of the Government in attacking related problems, and to initiate broad new studies when necessary.

A major purpose of the Board is to provide a national focus for broad interdisciplinary efforts toward reducing or controlling pollution and other environmental problems.

Dr. Harold Gershinowitz, former Research Coordinator and Chairman of the Research Council of Royal Dutch/Shell, and former President of the Shell Development Company (retired), is the chairman. Dr. Gershinowitz received his B.S. degree from the City College of New York, his A.M. and Ph.D. degrees in chemistry from Harvard University, and did postdoctoral research at Princeton, Columbia, and Harvard Universities. He has been active in academic affairs, serving as chairman of the Council of the Harvard Graduate Society for Advanced Study and Research and a member of the visiting committees to the Department of Chemistry and the Division of Engineering and Applied Physics at Harvard, and to Departments of Geology and Chemical Engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Two major considerations prompted the decision of the Academies to establish the Environmental Studies Board:

Recent reports on pollution abatement have emphasized the interdisciplinary nature of environmental problems and recommended that coordinating bodies be set up. The establishment of such a board within the Academy structure was