

Now we have an agency headed by the Vice President and staffed by a competent man who can direct its activities.

If it wasn't for the National Space Council, because space program was scattered in numerous agencies; I don't think our space program would be where it is.

Now, do you think that if we had some sort of environmental agency comparable to this council that we could make more progress than we could in trying to reorganize the Government? Because every chairman feels this is giving up of authority, when you know it might be good to do so. You don't like to establish a precedent.

Have you looked at this or has the Academy of Engineering looked at it?

Dr. GERSHINOWITZ. Yes, Mr. Miller, I think those are very important and valuable precedents and examples we can use in dealing with the environments.

Chairman MILLER. I think this can be a new form that we can take to get solutions for some of these distinct problems. I am inclined to think sometimes local government can handle them. I live in the San Francisco Bay area that is governed by one of the first very successful air pollution boards. Mr. Linsky is responsible for it. I had the privilege of going over to the University of West Virginia at his invitation the other day. In our own city, Alameda, we disposed of the waste by dumping it into the bay or burned it down at the bay. They used to do this at Berkeley.

The board put a stop to burning, even the burning on these dumps. This just raised the dickens. The city fathers said, "We have about 5 more years. What are we going to do when that is gone?" They are still worried.

Then they brought in a counterproposal. The mayor said, "What are you doing? You are stopping burning; this smoke isn't going to hurt you, but the rats will." I tell you the housewives and people concerned with burning were ready to turn turtle when they pictured rats running all over the place. We controlled the rats, and the burning. I don't know what we are going to do with it. There is not much more of the bay we can fill in. I realize the importance of this.

I wonder, in view of some of these things that have taken place, if you can depend too much upon local authorities. Left to local authorities, the instance I cited in my own hometown, we would still be filling and burning. But they consented to an environment group coming into the bay area that could override them. Thank goodness we are not burning anything.

Dr. GERSHINOWITZ. I said, Mr. Miller, that the responsibility for criteria and standards are definitely those of the Federal Government, rather than local authorities.

Chairman MILLER. I don't know, it might be Federal, but I do think you have to have some sort of a regional part.

Dr. GERSHINOWITZ. Regional, certainly.

Chairman MILLER. I could cite cases where one small political subdivision blocked stream control; it would have been much more economical on a watershed basis. You get into these little jealousies.

Mr. DADDARIO. I don't see any particular conflict, Dr. Gershinowitz, with what you said and what the chairman is talking about. I quite