

by Secretary Gardner, when they appeared in the city of Detroit about 3 years ago. At that time I pointed out the chaos that exists. Favorable recommendations in this direction did flow from the Secretary's task force.

This is the history, Mr. Chairman, of the matter. I would suggest to the Chair that since this is essentially an embryonic concept, and since there is a great deal that we do not know, we should utilize to the fullest degree possible the principle of allowing this agency the maximum of freedom that we can afford it. In its early days we should afford it perhaps only the most limited kind of staff that is necessary to carry out its responsibilities.

The Council of Economic Advisers exists with a very limited staff, and does provide great work. I believe starting slow and small in this way would provide the basis for whatever growth is necessary in future times as the knowledge becomes more comprehensive and as the organism has gained experience and ability, and has begun to establish a meaningful program for establishing the order that is necessary in our use of the environment.

With those remarks, Mr. Chairman, I wish again to commend you, and members of the committee, for your scrutiny into this very important matter. It is my hope that something of this kind will come about at an early time because we are frankly playing Russian roulette with our future, and with our environment. There is strong reason to think unless something very drastic is done in this country the pollution of our air, soil, atmosphere, waters, may conceivably mark the beginning of the extinction of mankind.

Certainly, the possibilities of change in the oxygen balance in the air, the exhaustion of the oxygen supply, change in the nitrogen balance, exceeding the capacity of photosynthesis to replace oxygen in the air, or perhaps the excessive pollution of the oceans, may now be taking place, may be marking at this time, without our knowledge, the beginning of the extinction of mankind.

I think the only way we can ever really come to an orderly understanding of these matters so that we can head them off calmly in time that future generations won't blame us for our stewardship of our resources is to establish a device of the kind I have indicated, a council of environmental quality or ecologist advisers.

Mr. DADDARIO. The gentleman from Michigan is to be complimented for the advice he has given us this morning, and the strong feeling not only about his own bills but the whole matter of the environment.

I would like to ask him just one question if he has the time.

Mr. DINGELL. Certainly.

Mr. DADDARIO. You have referred to the Council of Economic Advisers as a model of the structure which you contemplate in the legislation you are proposing.

I wonder how you correlate this with the Federal Council for Science and Technology and its Committee on Environmental Quality, under the control of Dr. Hornig, which provides within the executive branch some structure within which environmental activities would be controlled and could be developed, including as I understand it, a recommendation that an annual report be made.