

Mr. DINGELL. I must confess to you, Mr. Chairman, I am a little troubled about exactly where the organism is placed or what it be called.

My experience with the Office of the Science Advisers to the President has been that almost without exception that the individual who holds that office and the staff with whom he works are outstanding men. They are, however, it is my feeling, rather timorous in that they lack both the strong concern over these problems, manifested in public statements, that would necessarily flow from an organism like the council of ecological advisers or council on environmental quality.

It is my feeling that they also lack sufficient dignity in the scheme of things to really have the kind of impact that is necessary in the light of the magnitude of the problem as we know it exists. Now we don't know exactly what the problem is and we don't know exactly what the effects of the abuse of our environment are. But we know they can be disastrous, and we have enough evidence to indicate that the time of disaster may be nearer at hand than most realize. I happen to think that the institution you mentioned is not going to be sufficient under the long-term needs of the country.

I have the feeling that the only way we can get sufficient attention focused on environmental problems is to set up as H.R. 7796 would, and other bills would, independent organisms within Government, not directly under the thumb of the President. And I think the Science Adviser has the defect he is too much under the President's thumb. The agency to which I refer must be made up of men who are renowned in prestige in their fields, made up of men of ability, experience, high attainments, exceptionally qualified as the bill would provide—to carry forward their responsibilities is the way to handle this. It must be independent to be effective.

I think the Science Adviser is a fine step, and I think an office under him is certainly a step forward, but I think it lacks the prestige, I think it lacks the ability, I think it lacks the dignity, I think it lacks the prestige that is necessary to make the kind of progress that is going to have to be made in just the new few years to preserve mankind in this country and on this earth. With the technological demands we are making on our resources, the waste problems that we have, and the other problems like pesticides which are very, very troublesome in the long pull we must have the effectiveness which comes of independence.

Mr. DADDARIO. John, thank you ever so much.

Mr. DINGELL. I again wish to commend you. I am delighted to see that somebody with authority to do something within this body, and with the committee responsibility appropriate for the consideration of legislation is working on this problem. I do hope, Mr. Chairman, in early time some kind of legislation—I don't advocate it necessarily be mine or any other Member's, but just some kind of legislation comes forth from this committee because I think this is one of the major problems this country is going to face in the years to come. I am grateful to see you are doing it.

Mr. DADDARIO. Thank you.

Mr. DINGELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(The prepared statement of Hon. John D. Dingell is as follows:)