

In a broader view, nations, continents, or even the entire planet, may be considered to be a large and complex ecosystem in which man and his activities play an important role. On a planetary scale, there are a number of disturbing theories concerning the effects of man's activities on the ecology of the earth. For example, there are theories that large-scale emission of carbon dioxide is warming the climate, or, conversely, that the emission of exhaust gases from jet airplanes into the upper atmosphere is cooling the climate. It has even been suggested that various human activities, notably the poisoning of marine plant life by water pollution, may result in the depletion of the world's oxygen supply. None of these theories has been proven to be either true or false, but the mere fact that these possibilities exist serves to underline our ignorance in the field of ecology and our need for more knowledge and more study in this relatively neglected science.

It is to the well-earned credit of the Congress of the United States that legislation has recently been enacted and other legislation is presently under consideration to halt or curb the ever growing contamination of our air, water and soil. In the consideration of such legislative measures, however, I am sure that members of Congress, with possibly a few exceptions, would be the first to admit their lack of scientific knowledge and background to delve into these environmental problems in depth and to determine the nature and effect of the interrelationships which the science of ecology encompasses.

For the reasons I have stated, and in order to provide a continuing link with the future, the establishment of a Council of Ecological Advisers is a necessary complement of the legislative effort to improve man's status in relation to his total environment. Under the terms of H.R. 14605 and similar bills, the Council of Ecological Advisers would study the national environment and ecology, giving advice and assistance to the President on the formulation of national policy to protect, preserve, and improve our national environment. The Council would conduct an appraisal of the various Federal programs dealing with the environment and would direct the coordination of these programs. First priority will be given to five key problem areas: air pollution, water pollution, solid wastes, atmospheric radiation, and environmental noise (especially sonic boom problems). However, the Council would not be limited to these areas and would be expected to study other ecological problems as they arise.

The Council would be made up of nine members, to be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, and would include representatives of science, industry, and major areas of ecological and environmental concern.

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I urge your favorable consideration of H.R. 14605.

Thank you very much.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I, too, wish to join my colleagues who preceded me in congratulating the chairman for bringing this matter to an early hearing.

Mr. DADDARIO. Mr. Matsunaga, you make before this committee a very persuasive argument for the need to do something in this area. I am particularly pleased by the kind of approach you have taken and the language which you have used in your remarks, because it shows