

do need is a council at the Presidential level coordinating all the programs that the Federal Government has to handle the pollution of our environment.

I feel that a council of ecological advisers would be helpful in establishing in the Office of the Presidency, a basic policy objective. It would have the advantage of being able to take an overview of all the environmental problems, whether it is radiation, air pollution, water pollution, it makes no difference. Essentially, ecology is the relationship of life to the environment around life, and our major concern of course is man, and man's relationship to his environment.

But equally important is the relationship of plant life to the environment, because we all need food, and animal life to the environment, whether they are animals that we eat, or whether they are animals in the forest that are a part of our heritage.

And so I think that we have to understand the interrelationship between life and environment and environment and life.

I think this is not being done at the present time by any governmental agency. I don't feel that we have an appreciation of the interaction of all kinds of pollution, one to the other, and to all kinds of life.

I would also like to say that it seems to me that it necessarily follows in Government that when you recognize that there is a problem, for instance, say, with water pollution, that many different departments become involved in trying to rectify the situation.

We have for instance the Department of the Interior, which has an obvious interest in trying to abate water pollution, but we also know that the Department of Commerce has an interest, because industry needs water, and it needs good quality water, and so they have an interest.

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has an interest. If water is polluted it is obviously going to affect the health of human beings.

And so you have a division of responsibility, and sometimes you have a duplication, and sometimes the departments are working at cross purposes one with the other. So it is for this reason that I feel it is essential that we have a council, or another body, whatever you would like to call it, which is capable of coordinating, giving a sense of direction, and advising the President as to how there can be a synthesis of the programs that we now have in the Federal Government.

I might say that I sent a copy of the legislation that I introduced to a number of leaders in environmental and ecological problems throughout the country, and I would like to include for the file their responses to me if you feel that that would be appropriate. And then I would like to excerpt from the letters a few comments which I think would be of particular interest to this committee.

(The letters referred to are shown in app. C, p. 557.)

Mr. TUNNEY. Dr. Frederick Sargent, chairman of the Committee on Human Ecology of the Ecological Society of America, wrote that the members of that committee, and I quote:

* * * decided that the "Ecological Advisers Act of 1967" was sufficiently important to demand a supporting statement from the Committee as a whole.