

the relationship of topography to pollution, and the beneficial combinations of urban planning to topography and the relationship of that combination to pollution abatement. We must understand the impact of environmental change on human beings, and how the changes in the quality of the atmosphere and the appearance of the environment affect man both physiologically and psychologically.

We have a need to understand our physical surroundings and the ecology of that environment better, so that we may direct our efforts at beneficially altering our environment, and so that we may be able to foresee future problems that could be averted at an early stage. We must have an overview of our surroundings so that we can understand our strengths, weaknesses, and needs, and act accordingly.

At present we are dealing with many of the problems of our environment in many areas of the Government. I do not question that each of these areas has a special and particular interest in its area of authority. The Public Health Service, in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, certainly has appropriate interest in air pollution. For air pollution has direct effects on our health. However, the Department of Transportation also has an interest in air pollution as it relates to automobiles and their ability to create air pollution, and as it relates to decreased atmospheric visibility which affects air transportation. Commerce has obvious interests when one of the great sources of air pollution is industry; and Agriculture is keenly interested in the impact of polluted air on crops and vegetation. I do not deny that each of these departments has a specialized and necessary interest in air pollution.

The Department of the Interior has an important concern with water pollution, for it has jurisdiction over the billions of gallons of water which come from areas of Interior's jurisdiction. The Department of Housing and Urban Development also has an intense interest in water use, for it must concern itself with the water needs, and water and sewage systems of the great cities. Agricultural use of high quality water is a need that speaks for itself. Industrial use of water again involves commerce, and there are obvious health needs in water purification systems. Again, I maintain that these areas all have individual legitimate and necessary authority in these realms.

The Atomic Energy Commission has obvious authority in the area of radioactive materials. The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has interests in the health aspects of these potentially harmful materials. The Department of Defense has needs for nuclear fuels, and every Department involved with water which is interested in desalinization as a source of additional fresh water has considered atomic facilities for such processes. These interests each have certain special concerns, and I feel that they are rightfully exercising authority in their own particular areas.

I could go on and on, but certainly it is not necessary. There is nothing wrong with his departmental specialization in related fields; it is advantageous for the Government to look at problems from a variety of specialized points of view. There are, however, some major needs which are not being met.

First and foremost is the need to view the entire environment and its total ecological interaction. It is essential to relate all of these areas of interest to each other. The environment is certainly composed of many more elements than have been mentioned here. And the ecology of the environment—the interaction of all of those elements—is something that I could not entirely explain here for we do not yet entirely understand it. That is my point. The understanding of our ecology is essential if we hope to successfully deal with the many problems of our environment. The understanding of our ecology is essential if we hope to create programs that will alleviate our environmental problems. Both now and in the future. The understanding of our ecology is essential if we are to make the various individual programs in our government relate effectively to one another, and to advance our activities in the realm of improving the entire environment. And effective overall view of the environment and its ecology will enable us to evaluate the effectiveness of our present efforts throughout the Government.

It is for this reason that I introduced the Ecological Advisers Act of 1967. This bill proposes the creation of a Council of Ecological Advisers in the Executive Office of the President.

The purposes of this Council are manifold. Primarily this branch of the Executive Office is to provide an overview of the problems of the ecology of the national environment, and to recommend and develop ideas and concepts for the