

implementation of programs designed to improve, protect, reclaim, restore, and conserve the various aspects of our environment. The Council is to establish devices for reviewing the effectiveness of, and the need for programs throughout the Federal Government, or sponsored or supported by the Federal Government, in related areas of environmental or ecological quality.

The most important of the Council's tasks will be the relating of the various areas of environmental interest to each other, and the development of creative concepts and plans for the continual improvement of the ecological and environmental conditions of the Nation.

The Council is also to direct the coordination of the efforts throughout the Government by its appraisal of programs. Through its staff and research facilities, it is to streamline and coordinate the research activities of the various areas of Federal interest and involvement in ecological questions. The Council will also advise the President on the allocation of funds for the various Federal areas involved with environmental questions.

The overview of the Council will be directed at the entire ecology of the environment—from the point of view of man and his needs. Ecology itself is not a concept which directs itself toward the effect of the interaction of the elements of the environment on one individual organism or element. However, in the case of the Council, we are interested in the environment and its ecology as it relates to man. The Council should not occupy itself with the narrow definition of each constituent element of the environment, but rather with the overall interaction of the constituent elements as they relate to man through their interaction with each other and with man. The Council must take a larger and not a smaller view of the picture of the environment. It must take a creative and comprehensive look at the ecology of our environment, concerning itself not only with the physical implications of the environment, but with the psychological and sociological implications of the conditions and interactions of the ecology of the environment on man. This will certainly include both the man-made as well as the natural elements of the environment.

The need for such a Council is clear. I have been in contact with representatives from industry, Federal departments, the Executive Offices, and scientific specialists, and they all express the idea that, in one form or another, some type of overseeing body is necessary to deal with the ever-increasing and continually proliferating questions and areas of authority concerned with our environment. They all affirm that an ecological view is necessary. There is a need to develop a long-range view of the problem, and corresponding long-range plans. There is a need to see that those areas of the Government dealing with various environmental problems are able to bring all resources to bear on those problems, are using all of the material available to the Federal Government, are not duplicating other efforts and programs, and are far reaching and creative in their efforts—with an understanding of the relationship of their projects and work to other related undertakings, other places in the public and private realms.

It is only fair to ask questions concerning the placement of such a council at the level of the Executive Office of the President. Once the need for such a body was determined, careful consideration was given for the placement of such an overseeing policy body. During the course of deliberations, the places considered for such a governmental function varied from the new Cabinet-level department to an Assistant Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.

It has become increasingly clear that a body created to deal with the entire environmental ecology must be in a commanding place in the Government if it is to be in any position to get an effective overview of national efforts and is to be a far-reaching policy determiner. If it is to be such an overseeing body, it cannot be placed in the structure of any one department involved in any one area of ecological or environmental quality control. It could never oversee or direct the efforts of activities in other departments equal in stature to the department in which it was a subdivision. Therefore, creating an assistant secretary, or some such similar position in an existing agency would essentially be impractical and make such a body or position impotent.

On the other hand, there is no desire to create a "super department"—a department to collect all of the various environmental quality research and control functions rooted throughout the various agencies and departments. As stated earlier, there are certain specific areas which are best kept where they now are, and such a massive reorganization would only postpone further the needed advances in this field.