

The logical place for this Council, therefore, is at the level of the executive. There, as a result of its position and its composition, and through its contact with the President, it is in a position to direct and enhance the activities in the Federal interests in environmental quality control, and to exercise independent and creative judgment in a previously much neglected field.

The power of this Council is derived from a number of areas. First and foremost is the position of the Council in the Executive Office of the President. The ecological advisers should be the executive equivalent of the Council of Economic Advisers, and through their function of reporting directly to the Executive on a regular and frequent basis, and recommending policy, programs, and allocations, the advisers maintain a prominent and powerful position in the Government.

The composition of the body also lends itself to authority both within and outside of the federal structure. The prestige value of a membership composed of experts and outstanding figures from a number of areas of private service should enable the Council to wield a great deal of influence in areas of environmental concern. The arrangement within the Council which enables the advisers to serve on the council without leaving their important positions in public and private life, enables, each individual member of the Council to maintain and enhance his own individual position of status in his area of specialty and influence.

The composition of the Council should be designed to include representatives of science, industry, and areas that are major concerns of environmental quality. The advisers themselves should be individuals who are capable of taking an effective overview of the situation, and not become involved with the particulars of the various programs which come under the purview of the authority of the Council.

For this reason I feel that the larger part of the Council membership be composed of social scientists, social and community planners, and public administrators. The great volume of the needed scientific expertise should come from the staff of the Council which will serve on a full-time basis. As previously mentioned, the Council members will retain their positions in public or private organizations in order to maintain positions of authority, and to help the member to maintain his specialized expertise and thus contribute more to the Council.

There is one additional underlying question which must be answered. This question deals with the concept of creating a new structure within the Government each time a problem is newly recognized, or appears to have grown or be growing. Should we create some new part of the bureaucracy every time we discover or redefine a problem? Of course we should not in every case or even in most cases. For we surely have the facilities within our gigantic federal structure to handle most problems. This question can honestly be asked of any new proposal, and it certainly must be asked of a proposal of such far-reaching proportions.

In the case of this plan I have introduced, I believe wholeheartedly that the need for its creation is clear. Our environment is our most immediate need. It affects us every minute of every day, and the ecology of that environment can alter our lives. This is not a simple problem, and therefore cannot be met by a simple solution. This is a problem that has roots throughout our country, and is dealt with in almost every area of the Federal Government. It is an area which includes environmental elements which must be actively related to each other if any valuable headway is to be made in the field of environmental quality control.

The possibilities of such a plan are very encouraging. The purview of the Council will deal not only with the interrelationship of the elements of the environment, but with the effects of those interrelationships on man himself. Only a Council in such a commanding position could be capable of collecting related information, coordinating efforts and projects, streamlining Federal activities in this rapidly growing field of interest, and developing the long-range and creative plans involving all areas of the Government which are necessarily involved in this realm.

Only a council such as the one proposed could have the latitude to develop such new concepts as the psychological implications of life in an urban area in terms of total ecology, and only such a council could be in a position to promote now unknown projects and concepts which are certain to develop in areas of urban and rural social ecology, and total concepts of waste disposal and related pollution abatement projects.