

The real question in my mind comes down to the delegation of authority and responsibility to implement actions at the Federal level in cooperation with the States.

Now the President has, as you know, stated, and written, that the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare has primary responsibility in such areas as air pollution.

Our committee, and I'm trying to speak both as a former panel chairman and as an individual, felt that within HEW the responsibility for air pollution should be raised to a higher level than it was and is at the present time.

There is a great hue and cry about automobile safety; and yet, in actual fact, I think the air pollution problem is a far more complex, difficult, and important problem perhaps than safety. Complex in the sense that you are affecting the oil industry, supplies, tires, and it is a difficult situation. You are going to deal with the States' monitoring and inspecting, and because of the excitement about safety, this was raised to a very high level, and then perhaps very appropriately so, but the responsibility in the pollution area in HEW is still not perhaps at a level where it has appropriate visibility, nor does the group have authority and responsibility to perhaps do it as rapidly as they might. It is a great improvement over the past.

Mr. DADDARIO. Great improvement at the State and local level?

Dr. MORSE. No, within HEW.

Mr. DADDARIO. Within HEW?

We went into this State and local problem a little bit during the course of these hearings.

Congressman Oren Harris was particularly concerned about the Federal Government getting involved in the area of local responsibility in solid waste and garbage disposal. As we talked about that the Government witnesses felt that we were able to put together the technical advice which a State-local government had to have in order to improve its situation and give them alternatives. The judgment ought to be left to them so that they could in the final analysis make the economic determination. The problem does appear to be that in many places there is a technical and mechanical inability to do that.

Do you see this as being a problem that cannot be overcome? Do you see the Federal Government necessarily having to do all of this?

Dr. MORSE. Well, in general, I would like, from a management point of view, to see more national programs and their management and implementation, decentralized. You can't do everything in the Office of the President as we all know.

In the case of things such as national air quality, or the collection of environmental health data, among cross sections of the population, by age group, and occupation, it seems to me that this probably is going to have to be implemented and managed by the Federal Government, hopefully on a well-organized, long-term-program basis.

I am concerned, however, that such work for example, should be performed as a long-term managed program. I think historically we had a tendency to undertake disorganized small research projects in the form of grants as NIH does basic research, National long-term research and development efforts require a good program and a good manager with authority and responsibility. This is true in this area