

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA,
ALLAN HANCOCK FOUNDATION,
Los Angeles, Calif., November 9, 1967.

HON. JOHN V. TUNNEY,
*House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. TUNNEY: You are most correct in your assumption that concern for environmental quality has brought me into contact with several federal agencies and offices. In each there has been found sympathetic understanding of the need for a total ecological systems approach to management alternatives, but in none has there resided sufficiently comprehensive legislative authority to encompass the whole interlocking network.

In spite of this deficiency in existing governmental machinery this University, and a handful of others throughout the country, are in process of structuring interdisciplinary programs of graduate education and research designed to develop a "technology of complexity" related to the urban environment, and to produce a new breed of environmental managers. You can imagine the difficulties involved in activation of a horizontal administrative structure against the traditional vertical disciplinary grain. At USC the new program is called the Institute of Urban Ecology. It is proceeding with about 15 graduate students from a variety of professional and academic schools, under the combined and enthusiastic tutelage of a strong volunteer faculty representing systems analysis, demography, social sciences, engineering, medicine, public administration, the law, architecture, planning, the natural sciences and other areas. Progress has been slow thus far, primarily because funding must be secured in the form of multiple grants each of which must conform to the categorical mandates of the respective granting agencies. It is most difficult to sustain a central coordinating professional staff under such circumstances. However, the need for the Institute's potential products is so evident that we must find ways of accomplishing our objectives.

For this reason, among others, your bill (H.R. 13211) and your related remarks are most welcome. By some means the government must contrive analyses of ecological systems involving man, and assure a capability for generating logical sets of optimal choices available to urban managerial decision makers. The Council of Ecological Advisers you propose, if sufficiently comprehensive in breadth of competencies represented, and if constituted to avoid undue restraint by members committed to specific categorical programs, would provide the Executive and the Congress with objective recommendations which could result in effective coordination, or the creation of alternative federal mechanisms.

Senator Muskie, some months ago, sent me a copy of a bill in which he proposed that a council be set up within the Senate, comprised of