

whether you had something different than that in mind in criticizing the failure to standardize the rules of procedure?

Mr. REUTTER. Well, the different agencies all have different procedures and different regulations.

Senator MUSKIE. That was your point?

Mr. REUTTER. Yes; and sometimes the rules and regulations of procedure change from the beginning of a project to the end because it takes some 2, 3, 4 years for a project to come to a culmination.

Senator MUSKIE. Because of legislation that has been here in Congress, we have been bringing out new rules and regulations over the last few years. I suppose that has had some impact.

Mr. REUTTER. Perhaps, but we believe there would be terrific improvement if related programs could be consolidated in one department responsible for handling funds for grants-in-aid for water-sewer projects.

Senator MUSKIE. All we have to do is convince the Congress.

Senator BAKER. Mr. Chairman, if I may add something to that dialog, I have generally agreed with the witness' observations and your implication that there is a great deal to be gained by the consolidation of agency functions for a specific field.

However, I wonder if there is not something also to be said once again in this business about balancing for the techniques and the difference in requirements for different circumstances that are entailed.

For instance, in a very high-density system, and in a very rural system, I wonder if we might not lose sight of the subtle requirements of each if there is not an effort to totally consolidate with consideration implementation of these programs among agencies.

Mr. REUTTER. This is true, but the State department of health in each State, which in most cases is the agency handling the pollution problem, could—and do—control this. It is true that there are different procedures and different requirements for rural and for urban, but the department of health could control the situation as to what the requirements would be in a rural and what they would be in an urban situation.

Senator BAKER. I think we are really concerned more with establishment of priorities for participation of available resources, rural versus urban, than we are with, for instance, the form of contract for the engineer or the quality of the pipe or the wall thickness in the construction.

Mr. REUTTER. This is true. But, is it not a fact that the State department of health, on the scene, has the complete records of various communities and would be in a better position to determine what respective priorities would be?

Senator BAKER. I am not sure, and that is why I inquire. But, as I say, there are mixed equities in these considerations. I reiterate that I feel, as I believe the chairman feels, that there are economic advantages to consolidation, but I would hate to see that consolidation result in substantial elimination for the opportunity of either urban or rural or midpopulation areas to receive their particular attention and their requirements to meet their particular special circumstances.

Senator MUSKIE. Well, gentlemen, thank you very much for your testimony. Your professions are very much a part of our concern, and I hope that we have a little marriage between the private sector and the public sector.