

ined will require a great deal of study on our part, discussion, and I want the committee members to know that we will have more discussions within our own committee, perhaps in executive session and study groups, and have members of your staff available and members of the Bureau of the Budget. It is sort of a large meal to digest in one sitting.

But I think the presentation in broad strokes and delineating the areas for legislative action was necessary to open these hearings.

I will not go too much in the financing. I think that would be a controversial matter. Yet it does appeal to a lot of us and must have a lot of merit. Certainly I think we would all agree that there is a need to assist the municipalities with the financing.

Some alterations have to be made in your proposal to make it more acceptable as well as workable to the municipalities, and I am sure there will be no objection to that.

Many members of this committee on both sides are not distressed, but certainly disappointed that after we got the national attitude and support for water pollution abatement facilities really cranked up, following the water quality legislation of 1965 and 1966, we had sort of a slump and letdown. We feel that we sort of pulled a run—not intentionally—through circumstances beyond the control of those in the Congress and those in the executive.

The effect pulled the rug out of those States that we were trying to motivate and stimulate and activate to get them going.

Just a few questions, Mr. Secretary, for the time being.

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

On your water quality standards, page 2, you say about 25 to 30 States have already been approved. Could you give us some idea about how long it will take for the rest of them to be approved?

Secretary UDALL. Well, we actually have approved 31. The others are in the process of negotiation. I think we anticipate at this point—there are perhaps two or three of the States where we are having some rather violent disagreements—but I think we can get agreements on most of them within the next several weeks, Mr. Chairman.

Some of these negotiations tend to string out, and I would rather not tie myself too tightly to a time schedule, because I think it is more important to get the right result than to simply decide that we are going to conclude it in a particular period of time. Much of this is technical. But I would say that I think we are laying down a very sound set of standards.

We are receiving fine cooperation from the States. And I think that certainly within the next few weeks that you will see most of the State's standards approved.

Mr. BLATNIK. The standards will have to be established then in effect before municipalities and the industries involved know precisely what is expected of them to proceed then to undertake whatever is necessary and required to maintain the standards that are agreed upon; is that not right?

Secretary UDALL. The standards, as the Congress contemplated in the 1965 act, lay the framework for the whole cleanup program. They are the absolute vital elements. We have not had to set a single set of