

INADEQUATE FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR WASTE TREATMENT WORKS

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Secretary, you speak in your statement of an all-out assault on pollution and the need for further legislation.

I would like to say that I believe you as Secretary of the Interior have been more vitally interested and more accurately concerned than any of your predecessors in your office with this problem of pollution.

I want to congratulate you on your leadership and your great interest in this field.

However, I am not certain that the amounts of appropriations recommended by the administration for this year and for next year are using the tools that Congress already has given them in our Water Quality Act of 1966. I do not believe they amount to what can be called an all-out assault.

You mentioned on page 3 of your statement that the present fiscal year \$203 million is appropriated. I gather that that is about the amount that the administration requested, is it not?

Secretary UDALL. I think very close to it.

Mr. WRIGHT. And our act that we passed in 1966, we authorized \$450 million for the present fiscal year, so that you asked for about half of what we authorized to be expended in this all-out assault?

Secretary UDALL. That is correct. This is the shortfall that caused us to conclude that we had to come up with a new method of getting the Federal commitment on the line in order to get into full gear.

And I quite agree with you that we have not this fiscal year met the target. We have fallen short. That is the reason we have come in with the legislation.

BOND APPROACH

Mr. WRIGHT. For the coming fiscal year our act that we passed in 1966 authorized \$700 million, and this gradually—not so gradually—rather sharply escalated program that we set forth, we authorized \$700 million and the President's budget is asking for \$225 million, less than a third of the amount that we authorized.

You are suggesting a long-term bonding proposal. Incidentally, do you know the first person to recommend that approach to this committee, the financing of water pollution abatement?

Secretary UDALL. I do not recall.

Mr. WRIGHT. Nelson Rockefeller recommended it to us in 1965 and again in 1966.

That essentially as I understand it is what they have done in New York on the State pollution programs.

Secretary UDALL. Well, most States, Congressman, have used those—10 or 12 or is it now 14 States that make State grants—most of them have used the bond approach. And of course the local governments use the bond approach as well. The Federal Government is keying itself into the bond approach by this payment device, rather than our being the one level of government to put up cash—everybody else is using the bond approach in terms of financing this kind of public works project.

Mr. WRIGHT. That sounds fairly plausible, and I do not want to prejudice myself against it. I do have some reservations about the amount you propose.