

Secretary UDALL. That would be a much different magnitude.

Mr. HUGHES. It would be a vastly expanded program.

Mr. CLEVELAND. In other words, that would be a real bond?

Secretary UDALL. That is right.

NOT BACKDOOR FINANCING

Mr. HUGHES. I think part of the point here gets back to Mr. Wright's point concerning the appropriation review and the effect of that on the legislation. He had raised the question as to whether this constituted backdoor financing in the sense that it is of concern to us as it is to the Appropriations Committee, and I think the answer is unqualifiedly it is not backdoor financing as would for instance a straight public debt authorization be.

Mr. CLEVELAND. Mr. Chairman, as Mr. Wright, I have other questions, but I recognize that there are other members of the committee with questions, and in conclusion I would like to say that, Mr. Secretary, as always when you appear before Congress, you give us something to think about. You have certainly given us something to think about today. And I am sure that many other committees, legislative committees in Congress, will be following our deliberations on this matter with interest; because although you were addressing yourself to the problem of clean water, which is a national problem, if I read the papers correctly, there are many other national problems of concern. The precedent we are setting here will be watched with more than ordinary interest.

Mr. BLATNIK. Thank you.

Mr. Edmondson.

Mr. EDMONDSON. First I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating the Secretary as another example of what I have heard referred to as "imagineering." And I think the gentleman who occupies the chair of Secretary of Interior right now is one of the ablest "imagineers" that we have in Government.

This is a very serious problem, regardless of what criticism may be directed against it, and I think it is a recognition that we are lagging in an area of vital importance to the country. We must find financing methods of some kind to close this gap to keep up the demands of this expanding economy of society.

CONTRACT PROPOSAL GEARED TO POPULOUS AREAS

Now, I profess to you quite frankly that I am a little bit disturbed about the fact that the new devices that are proposed would appear to be restricted pretty largely in their operation to the metropolitan or urban areas of the country. And I would like to ask either the Secretary or somebody else who is knowledgeable on the subject to tell us just how many areas in the country would be covered by the language in your contract—the description is under paragraph 5:

The contracts would be available where the waste treatment system, not the particular project, serves 125,000 people or more or serves all or part of a standard metropolitan statistical area—

As defined by the Bureau of the Budget.