

to the States the right to determine the pollution of the waters that come through their State.

Now, do you feel that by the different provisions of this law we are now considering, that it is going to delay the abatement of pollution and also put more Federal control in Washington?

Mr. OEMING. Well, first of all, I feel that this could be considered a breach of the policy statement in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, where it states that the primary responsibility rests with the States.

Well, there is not much primary responsibility left when we take the design and the operation of the treatment facilities out of the States. I do not know what they are going to be doing.

Mr. DENNEY. Well, for example, provisions in this bill require in effect that any industrial, public or private development which would constitute a new source of pollution or increased pollution to high-quality water must contain a program designed to provide the highest and best degree of waste treatment available under existing technology.

I can see where you could spend several months arguing with the Secretary as to whether or not you have reached the highest and best degree of technology. Can you see the same problem?

Mr. OEMING. Well, I think certainly it is not inconceivable that this can happen.

Mr. DENNEY. Of course, our purpose is to try and abate this pollution.

Mr. OEMING. Promptly.

Mr. DENNEY. I believe that is all I have.

Mr. McCARTHY. Thank you, Mr. Denney.

Thank you, Mr. Oeming, for a very important contribution.

Mr. OEMING. Thank you, sir.

(At this point Mr. Wright resumed the Chair.)

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Joe G. Moore, Jr., and Mr. David Finnegan, if you would return, we would like to ask a few more questions relating the position of the Department of the Interior.

The committee appreciates your patience in being with us this morning and returning again this afternoon. The committee has a number of questions that were not able to be answered because of the time involved this morning concerning the testimony of Secretary Udall.

INTERIOR'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE STATES IN THE STANDARDS-SETTING PROCESS

First of all, how would you characterize the relationship between the Department and the various States with respect to the firming up and finalizing of an acceptable standard?

Do you think the relationship is amicable and friendly, or do you think you have had major difficulties?