

**STATEMENTS OF HON. JOE G. MOORE, JR., COMMISSIONER FOR THE
FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ADMINISTRATION, DE-
PARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, AND DAVID FINNEGAN, ASSIST-
ANT LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR—
Resumed**

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I will have to comment that by virtue of my recent prior association, there have been, obviously, discussions with the States with regard to the water quality standards. The Secretary indicated this morning that some 31 of these sets of States standards have been approved by the Secretary, some with exceptions.

There are presently some seven State standards under detailed and close review at the highest level within the Department of the Interior. The standards of the remaining States, roughly some 12 States and three territorial standards, represent, as you might expect, those in which the areas of disagreement have been wider than in some that have already been approved.

However, it is, I think, very probable, with the exception of the resolution of the addition of what was referred to this morning as the nondegradation statement, that the majority of the States standards can be approved within a reasonable period of time.

Now, I exclude the question of nondegradation statement, because this issue was resolved by the Secretary late in January and there have been four specific submissions of nondegradation statements that are acceptable or have been accepted by the Secretary, whereas there are perhaps some four or five other State statements that are under consideration within the Department. There are perhaps two States that have indicated at this point in time officially that they have reservations about adopting such a statement. And so I would anticipate that in terms of the nondegradation statement, it will take some time yet to resolve the language questions with regard to the acceptable statements in this area.

Mr. WRIGHT. So you have seen it from both sides. You have been directly involved, of course, with the water pollution control activity for the State of Texas and, more recently, in the Department position which you now hold.

Do you consider the machinery created in the 1966 law with respect to the creation of standards by the States and their approval by the Department of the Interior to be adequate machinery? Do you think that is working out pretty well?

Mr. MOORE. Well, I think there is no doubt that the Water Quality Act of 1965, which set the stage for the adoption of the water quality standards by the States and their submission to the Secretary of the Interior, has accelerated the activities at the State level in terms of water pollution control. I think the record will reflect this.

I think the procedure for requiring hearings on proposed water quality standards has done a great deal to secure understanding among the people of the country generally, first as to the quality problems that are faced by them in their respective States, and then some measure of the magnitude of the task in terms of improving the water pollution control programs within the State.