

There has undoubtedly been a continuing, sometimes controversial, dialog between the States and the Federal agencies.

I think the concept that must guide all of those involved in the water pollution control field is that the full resources of all levels of government—Federal, State, and local—must be concentrated upon the problem if we are to achieve measurable results within any reasonable time framework.

Now, despite the fact that the discussions with regard to language—which, in reality, does not improve in itself the quality of the water, despite the discussions with regard to the language contained in various policy statements in the water quality standards, I would have to say overall that, in my view, substantial progress has been made in the water quality standards setting process.

I would hope that the States and the Department of the Interior can resolve the unresolved questions in water quality standards as rapidly as possible in order that the full resources of the Federal and State governments, as well as local governments, can be concentrated in achieving the objectives—which is really all the standards at this time are contemplated in the water quality standards setting process.

Mr. WRIGHT. The Department is not at this time seeking any change in that relationship as set forth in the earlier act, is it?

Mr. MOORE. Not except insofar as the foreseeable impact of the unavailability of the full authorization for construction grants might have upon the implementation schedules contained in the water quality standards and this has led us to this financing proposal that is before the Congress now.

This can materially affect the implementation schedules and the target dates of roughly 1972.

Mr. WRIGHT. Yes. Unless money is available, of course, they cannot achieve their objectives with the rapidity that they had anticipated. But the question is directed primarily to the machinery of State-Federal relationship.

You do not see any reason for asking for a change in that, do you?

Mr. MOORE. No, sir; I do not.

Mr. WRIGHT. Now, with respect to the big matter of financing, I think we will have an opportunity to discuss that further with Secretary Udall sometime next week and perhaps we can spare you a lengthy discussion of that at the moment.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR OIL RELEASES

Concerning expansion of the oil pollution control capacity of the Government, it seems to me more that what we really need is some way to move in rapidly when we discover that some of this oil had been released, and get it cleaned up before it does irreparable damage to regions, beaches, and other areas. Additionally, perhaps we need some assurance of economical liability, responsibility on the parts of these vessels that are releasing this oil.

Of course, many of the oil slicks that have been discovered have not been traceable to the site source. You know, of course, the Navy has identified more than a hundred sunken ships that dot our coastlines, some of which many contain oil, some of which oil may be released at any undisclosed future moment as the bulkheads give way, the rust