

FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS—1968

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1968

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to recess, at 9:43 a.m., in room 2167, Rayburn Building, Hon. John A. Blatnik, presiding.

Mr. BLATNIK. The House Public Works Committee will please come to order to meet in open session continuing public hearings on H.R. 15906, and H.R. 15907, by Mr. Fallon and Mr. Blatnik, and sundry bills, about two dozen of them, on very important aspects of water pollution programs.

GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER WELCOMED

We are certainly privileged again, and of course we feel honored and very pleased, to have the distinguished Governor of the State of New York with us this morning as a lead-off witness.

Governor, I would like again to say publicly what I have said privately many times, that certainly the Chair personally, and I know the committee, feels an obligation with a great sense of gratitude for the leadership you have given on the State level, which far too long was one of our weakest spots. With the legislation in which Congress authorized States to take the initiative in establishing standards on a joint effort with the Secretary of Interior, the States are moving along admirably and most encouragingly in this very difficult field.

There is nothing less than enormous all-out joint effort across the board following the Federal Government, the State governments, certainly the municipalities, large and small, and may I again repeat that it has been the municipalities that have certainly carried a major share of the burden of what is now thoroughly a national program. These municipalities have carried the major burden and is measured in terms of physical output and physical effort.

I believe much of your testimony this morning will be addressed in that area.

Governor, you are recognized to open the hearings this morning.

Mr. CLEVELAND. On behalf of the minority, we would like to welcome Governor Rockefeller. He has appeared before this committee before, and he has written a distinguished record in connection with this very serious problem of the abatement of water pollution.