

When Congress approved the prefinancing provision in 1966, it recognized that States and localities should not be penalized for demonstrating initiative. The proposed legislation would penalize the State of New York for adopting a pure waters program to quickly eliminate water pollution. And there are some four, five, or six other States which now have similar legislation before their legislative bodies.

New York anticipates approval of \$534 million worth of projects during the coming Federal fiscal year. We expect these projects to be eligible for the full 55-percent Federal share established by law.

A 55-percent share of New York State's \$534 million program for Federal fiscal 1969 would be \$294 million—42 percent of the total nationwide authorization of \$700 million. Obviously, New York State could not realistically expect to receive 42 percent of the total authorization.

In fiscal 1970, however, when the Federal authorization goes to \$1 billion, New York State's construction program will decrease to \$375 million.

In 1971, with a Federal authorization of \$1,250 million, New York's program needs are estimated at \$325 million. In 1972, the last phase of New York's 6-year program, to clean up all the pollution of our waters, needs will further decrease to approximately \$140 million.

In other words, because the State of New York has acted to meet its needs now, its construction requirements are peaking in Federal fiscal 1969, well before the nationwide peak provided for by the authorizations enacted by Congress.

Retention of the reimbursement provision will advance the national goal of abating pollution as quickly as possible and at the lowest cost possible. I say the lowest cost possible because construction costs are rising very rapidly. It is prudent fiscal management to meet the needs as quickly as possible.

It is consistent with congressional intent to have the Federal Government share in the cost of constructing approved sewage treatment works.

It is essential that a prefinancing provision be included in this pending legislation. Such a provision should apply to all projects approved by the Secretary of the Interior as eligible for Federal assistance, whether or not such assistance is available at the time of approval.

These then, gentlemen, are four major objections to H.R. 15907 in its present form. It is absolutely essential that they be corrected if the effort to eliminate water pollution is to progress as rapidly as possible.

Efforts of States such as New York would be seriously jeopardized by provisions in this proposed bill.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE NEW YORK PURE WATERS PROGRAM

Now if I may just give for one moment here a review of where we stand in New York so that you can see the effectiveness of your present program of encouraging State action on a rapid accelerated basis.

New York State is achieving dramatic steps toward its goal to clean up all of its waters by 1972. The people's overwhelming approval by a 4-to-1 mandate of the pure waters bond issue in 1965 is being vigorously implemented.