

As we in Puerto Rico learned, it takes only one mistake to produce a pollution crisis.

I am aware that the Federal agencies are searching for new products and methods of controlling pollution. But I believe that these efforts must be multiplied manifold before any port community can feel the slightest confidence about meeting a massive pollution threat.

To summarize my views, the *Ocean Eagle* incident created severe pollution problems for San Juan Harbor and contaminated beaches as far as the western tip of the island. The final effect on marine life has not been ascertained.

The oil spillage from this tanker proved that the stage of the art in dealing with this type of catastrophe is not sufficient to meet these problems. The threat of disasters to other tankers is continuous and is a concern to every shoreline community.

Cleanup operations have to be undertaken without delay, and liability for their costs should fix on the owner of the vessel, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Research on a broad scale to prevent contamination and to decontaminate should be pursued. The development of methods and systems of control is needed. New products to control pollutants without themselves contributing to the pollution should be developed. A comprehensive inventory of available chemicals and their characteristics should be compiled. In addition, there should be an inventory of local meteorological, oceanographic, and geological conditions on areas exposed to the threat of oil pollution accidents.

Funds on a national level should be immediately available. A plan of action to deal with an oil pollution emergency should be ready and should detail the division of responsibility between various Federal and local authorities.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I should like to send later, for the record, an account of the *Ocean Eagle* incident by the Department of Marine Sciences, University of Puerto Rico.

Mr. DORN. Without objection that will be included in the record.

(The following was subsequently received for the hearing record:)

UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO,
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SCIENCES,
Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, April 29, 1968.

HON. SANTIAGO POLANCO ABREU,
Resident Commissioner,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. POLANCO ABREU: Enclosed please find a preliminary report of our activities during the *Ocean Eagle* disaster. I regret that you were unable to reach me by phone. I would have liked to have appeared before the House Committee on Public Works.

Should there be any doubts about the enclosed information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

MAXIMO J. CERAME-VIVAS, *Director*.

REPORT BY DR. GRAHAM S. GIESE, PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHER

I spent seven days in San Juan in connection with the petroleum problem. March 4-5 were spent primarily surveying the situation and acting as an advisor to personnel of Obras Publicas concerning the physical factors affecting the distribution of the petroleum. March 11-12 were spent re-surveying the situation,