

CONCLUSION

For the giant steps in water pollution legislation, which you of the public works committee have initiated and maneuvered into law in recent years, we are profoundly grateful. Together we must implement these statutes via continuous effort and realistic appropriations to achieve effectiveness. Because of the vision and action of this very committee, we may be able to preserve and, hopefully, restore this heritage. Despite the willingness of the polluter and the inertia of bureaucratic bodies, I see progress as I move about the country. Polluters are less arrogant, the public is aroused even if sometimes misdirected, and nearly every State is about to agree to belonging to the union, that is, being a part of the action. As we participate in the various enforcement conferences being called by the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, the most frequent controversy whirls about how to achieve adequate sewerage treatment facilities for municipalities.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO WASTE TREATMENT PROJECTS

I was at a loss to know whether I was supposed to testify on H.R. 15907 or not. However, with this being such an important problem, we hope that it can be resolved as quickly as possible nationally. In my simple way of thinking, I suggested that a 50-percent grant for any disposal system that meets the Federal specifications be guaranteed.

It seemed to me that confusion and disenchantment of the various States may be dissipated in action if these people knew exactly what they must do and how much they could depend upon the Federal Government for help.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Thank you very much, Mrs. Wallace.

Mr. Chairman, any questions?

Mr. BLATNIK. I have no questions. I appreciate your attending. The witness again has been so helpful in the past and so have the witnesses of the Oyster Institute of North America.

PROGRESS IN WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

I think we are on the road to making progress, though, as you indicate in your concluding statement. I think the picture is a lot different now than it was 10 years ago.

Mrs. WALLACE. Yes, Mr. Blatnik, that is true.

Mr. BLATNIK. In many cases the dominant concept was that pollution was primarily a local problem and a health problem, but now we realize that it is a very complicated problem in breadth and depth, in interlaces and interlocks. Municipalities and States and river basins and industry, people, and the Federal Government definitely have quite a stake in it.

We are going to try to improve the financing, which will be one area most complicated, and try to make it easier for the municipalities to engage in the financing. It has been a problem. We hope to do more on oil pollution. It has been really complicated, I think, in the area of enforcement, as to what do you do with a complicated substance that you deal with, plus other chemicals such as phenols? We don't know what to do with it when it gets in the water.