

Mr. Chairman, for the record, my name is John D. Dingell. I am a member of Congress from the 16th Congressional District of Michigan. I would like to thank the Chair, my very dear friend of long standing, for the privilege of being here today. I would like to commend the chairman and the members of this distinguished committee for their longstanding interest in clean water and in restoring cleanliness to the waters of this Nation. I believe it may be fairly said that without the leadership of the distinguished chairman of the subcommittee, my good friend from Minnesota, Congressman John Blatnik, that the progress we have seen, the enormous progress we have seen in these past few years, would not have taken place. It has been one of my proud boasts that I have been able to work with the distinguished chairman over these years, going back to the enactment of the first original water pollution control bill in 1956, the Blatnik bill, that has done so much to clean up our waters and lay the basis for further progress.

Mr. Chairman, I will not comment on the administration legislation before you. There have been a number of other witnesses who have done so. I would like to comment on some peripheral matters before the committee that I believe might be of assistance to the committee in terms of evolving a good piece of legislation.

FEDERAL GRANTS FOR USE OF NEW METHODS IN WASTE TREATMENT PLANT OPERATION

I would like to direct the attention of the committee first of all to H.R. 16044, and point out the virtues of that very modest proposal, authorizing some \$25 million a year from fiscal 1969 through 1972, inclusive, and which sums would remain available until expended for purposes of making grants annually to States, municipalities, intermunicipal or interstate agencies, for the purpose of assisting in the operation of existing waste treatment plants, using proven methods to achieve substantial and immediate improvement in effluent quality, including phosphate removal.

These grants would be made pursuant to State plans and would be made after State water pollution control agencies certified to the Secretary of the Interior that the operation of such waste treatment plan has been performed and will be performed in accordance with the purposes of the bill to utilize newer and better methods and new additives in matters of this type.

I would point out that this legislation has significant support throughout the industry, particularly the manufacturing chemists and a number of their constituents and members.

I would point out that I do not appear here today as representative of this group or of any member, and I do not appear as advocate of any particular device or treatment, form of treatment or additive that might be used. But it occurred to me in this time of great shortage of funds that one of the things that can be done would be to utilize every method presently available to us to substantially improve the quantity and quality of treatment that is afforded to our waters. As the Chair well knows, the cost of operating these plants is enormous. It is going to be in the next 5-year period something on the order of \$1.4 billion and conceivably can rise considerably higher.

In addition to this, there is going to be needed for construction something on the order of \$8 billion, or perhaps as high as \$8.7 billion, to construct the plants needed.