

projects that encompass a whole watershed. Leagues that have repeatedly supported stronger state controls to keep acid mine drainage from spreading to clean streams know that the largest part of the problem is checking seepage from abandoned and inoperative mines on privately owned land.

RESERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS

On timeliness of authorization

Pollution control programs already in effect are suffering from funding acknowledged to be inadequate in the reports of the Appropriation Committees. Does it seem possible that funds can be obtained for new pollution control programs, however worthwhile their aims?

H.R. 15907, in proposals for revision of Sections 5 and 6 of P.L. 660, includes research and demonstration projects for lake and acid mine water pollution in the \$65 million authorization for research, demonstration, investigations, training, and information. This amount is the same as that now authorized for fiscal year 1969. S. 2760 and H.R. 14000, however, propose to authorize \$15 million to carry out one or more acid mine drainage projects to demonstrate engineering and economic feasibility of various abatement techniques when applied on a watershed or drainage basin scale.

The League stand has always been that laws should be applied. Legislation lulls the public into a false sense that something has been accomplished. Public attention turns elsewhere. We question whether funds for a program should be authorized if they will not be appropriated in the near future.

The same question does not arise in connection with the proposal in H.R. 15906, S. 2760, and similar bills that authorize a revolving fund to pay for cleanup of oil spills if the owner or operator of a vessel or shore installation fails to remove discharged oil immediately. Creation of the funds is coupled with the provisions through which money expended from it will be recovered from those causing the pollution.

On the percentage of the federal share

A requirement that the state pay not less than 25 percent of actual costs of acid mine drainage projects is made a prerequisite for federal participation, according to S. 2760, and H.R. 14000. The League is glad to see a requirement for state funds included in the proposal. We do not oppose the 75/25 ratio for a demonstration project.

However, when the League of Women Voters was developing its support for better coordination at the federal level, League members deplored the differences in proportion of contributions and in required repayment under programs handled by different federal agencies. "Shopping around" for the maximum amount of aid seemed undesirable to League members because (a) it encourages delay in solving the problem for which federal aid is sought and (b) it encourages choosing the solution for which most financial aid can be obtained. League members became convinced that variations in the amount of aid which can be offered under different programs distorted decision-making, reduced maximum benefits from the federal investment, and are one factor in heightened inter-agency competition.

In recent years we have seen some tendency to limit federal aid to 50 percent in a number of water programs, except where supplementation was provided for areas of great economic distress. Housing and Urban Development Act authorized grants to local public bodies to finance up to 50 percent of the cost of basic public water and sewer facilities (though not "treatment works" as defined in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act). For rural communities, the Rural Water and Sanitations Facilities Act, offered up to 50 percent of construction, land easement, rights of way, and water rights costs necessary for construction and operation of rural water supply and sanitation systems. The Public Works and Economic Development Act also authorized 50 percent aid for needed public works in economically distressed areas, plus supplementation.

The League would like to see this 50 percent line held as demonstration and pilot operations move into full national programs.

THE "WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1968"

Mrs. CLUSEN. Turning first to the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1968, the League of Women Voters of the United States agrees with the aim of H.R. 15907 to provide a practical method of financing the