

Federal share of treatment facility construction costs during the current period of financial stringency. We are well aware that parts of the bill are meeting strong opposition from spokesmen for local and State officials. We anticipate modification by this committee.

Our reasons for support of H.R. 15907 are as follows:

MONEY THE MAIN PROBLEM

Money is the main problem. Meeting the cost of building and improving treatment plants far overshadows other difficulties in cutting down water pollution from city sewage.

If the full authorization had been appropriated, the league would have favored continuing the present grant program unchanged. After all, the removal of the dollar ceiling and the higher percentage of project cost offered by the Federal Government in the Clean Water Restoration Act went into effect less than a year ago.

But, in reality, these increases never materialized. Although 23 States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands have passed legislation authorizing a State share of 25 to 30 percent, the \$203 million appropriated for the construction grant program has been so inadequate that the incentive offered by the Clean Water Restoration Act has been almost no incentive at all.

Under present circumstances, we do not expect the Appropriations Committees to appropriate the \$700 million authorized for fiscal 1969 or even the \$450 million we wanted for the present fiscal year. The league, therefore, supports installment payments of the Federal share. We do this in the hope that the Appropriation Subcommittee will regard with favor upon the relatively small additional amount, above the \$225 million for the continuing grant program, needed to pay the 1969 installment of the Federal share of principal and interest under the contract system; and the large amount of treatment facility construction that could be generated if States utilize this contract method for their larger projects.

CONSTRUCTION NECESSARY TO STANDARDS ACHIEVEMENT

We think success from standard setting depends on construction. Only if the timetable in an enforceable plan is adhered to will standard setting bring about stream cleanup. To meet the timetable, interceptor sewers and treatment plants must be enlarged, improved, and new ones constructed on schedule. If some sizable physical improvements move forward rapidly, enforcement of standards will be encouraged. If standards are not enforced, the entire standard setting operation will be no more than a paper exercise.

POPULATION—SMSA REQUIREMENT

Secondly, the league fully supports the provision in H.R. 15907 that limits the contract method to all or parts of standard metropolitan areas or to large population centers.

The construction grant program was begun to help towns and small cities. States decide to whom the State allocation of Federal construction grant funds shall go—and in what percentage of project costs. Some States spread their allocations thinly, small percentages to many recipients. Prior to 1966, the dollar ceiling on project grants made ex-