

understanding of the enrichment process is inadequate. Improvement of methods for nutrient removal is expected to require large-scale demonstration projects.

While continued fundamental and applied research on acid mine drainage will undoubtedly be needed, the time seems to have come for demonstration 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.

On these bills also we have some reservations and questions.

DOUBTS CONCERNING ADEQUATE APPROPRIATIONS FOR NEW PROGRAMS

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 Public Law 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.

REVOLVING FUND FOR OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE CLEANUP

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 fund is coupled with the provisions through which money expended from it will be recovered from those causing the pollution.

FEDERAL SHARE OF MINE AREA DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Our second concern relates to 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 to 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