

ness, Commissioner Bill Basford of Duval County. Mr. Basford has the distinction of holding two offices at the same time which perhaps he can articulate before you at this time.

Mr. BASFORD. I am very, very pleased to have this opportunity to be here on something that is very, very near and dear to me.

I have been wrestling with it on the local level for quite some time. I was a member of the legislature in 1963 and we had a Select Committee on Water Resources to make a study in regard to some of the very things that are facing you right now.

We found in Florida approximately 16 million gallons per day of raw human waste was being dumped into our rivers and streams. This did not take into account industrial waste and did not account for the farm problem or poisons or pesticides.

The shocking thing was that here I was, house member from Duval County, and found that out of this 16 million gallons, Jacksonville was dumping 15.2 million gallons a day of this total amount from our municipality. This followed through the next term, I was on the conservation committee again, and I found the problem of such a magnitude that I ran for county commissioner then. And I know Mr. Clausen understands my problem as a former commissioner himself.

We have attacked this on our local level and I want you to know that my message includes that, that we too are aware and are working hard on this and we are participating.

Duval County itself has undertaken a project which over the next 5 or 10 years, out of local funds, will probably equal the total amount of your annual appropriation from Congress to the Water Pollution Control Administration.

So we are all trying to become partners in this thing, and we are very, very delighted that the programs that you present to us on the basis of self-help, encouraging self-help.

But you go into a community such as ours, which exceeds a half million people, and I found as county commissioner that we have over 109 independent water and sewer systems throughout our community, not counting the Jacksonville municipal system. And we faced something not too long back, we found out we had no regulatory powers over rates, water standards, and this thing which really gave the commission an effective opportunity to protect the public and to have some control.

So we went to the legislature for a special act to give us this power, set up health standards, and to spend moneys to regulate, and this sort of thing.

Well, immediately our companies started raising their rates in anticipation of future control. Many of them were bought up by outside interests. I read with some alarm that the president of a large national and international utility company, which is one of the owners in our area, the president made a speech in which he said very boastfully, encouraging apparently businessmen to go into communities and buy these systems, that the profit was not in operating the system but the profit was in selling them back to municipalities at future larger dollars, particularly after they had been able to inflate their rate base and cost of replacement though engineering reports and this sort of thing.