

needs of this country are to be met. The suggested legislation appears to us to be a genuine effort in this direction. Only recently the authorizations have been put at approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a billion dollars and this level was decided after the most laborious and careful hearings by the committees of the Congress and extensive discussions on the floor of both Houses of Congress as to the critical need that such an authorization represented. Subsequently, we are all aware of the problems of funding much more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the amount authorized to be appropriated. While this may not be critical in many other areas of the Federal Budget, it is of vital importance to the program of water pollution control abatement. The impact upon health, recreation, and the general quality of our very existence has been hanging in the balance for too long a time to permit a condition where we fall a little farther behind each year to continue. Unless action of some drastic proportions is taken now, financial and technical problems may be so large that the community's ability to overcome either may be questionable.

ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Chairman, we have been most distressed at the problem of enforcement. While many of us have been dismissed as being too impatient, and too purist in the establishment of State standards, we nevertheless are constrained to appeal to this Committee for an acceleration of enforcement action. The Chairman, I am sure, will recall that conservationists have worked for a long period of years in support of the Chairman, this Committee, and other Congressional leaders in order to achieve a responsible and viable Federal water pollution control and abatement program. I need not recall to the Chairman the long and, what at that time appeared to be, unproductive years of effort to gain public recognition for a program just getting under way. We were cautioned at every turn of the road that impatience could well mean disaster for the entire program. We were urged patience at the time Mr. Gutermuth and others tried so desperately to up-grade the water pollution agency in the HEW Department. We were cautioned again that a level of experience was necessary before one could move vigorously in this area. We were cautioned again to inhibit to a greater degree our impatience at the lack of funds for a significant enforcement program. When the transfer of the water Pollution Control agency from HEW to the Department of Interior was accomplished another plea for restraint was urged upon us because the new Department necessarily had to become adjusted to its task. When this transition period appeared to have come to a close, we were urged again to exercise serious restraint in terms of undue criticism as the Department went about evaluating State plans that were presented to it.

It is not our primary effort to put people in jail for violations. We are not interested in a punitive measure for penalty's sake alone but we do feel that a greater vigor must take place in pursuing the problems when they are identified. To the best of our knowledge, as of March 26, 1968, forty-three conferences have been convened. Only one, to our knowledge, has gone to adjudication and where the Federal Court has retained jurisdiction in the case of St. Joseph, Missouri area on the Missouri River. We are not suggesting that each of these cases should be rushed as soon as the law will allow court action.

Our principal matter of concern is that once public hearings have taken place and that the procedures of the act have been satisfied and that conferences have been convened, that recommended compliance be more carefully policed and target dates be moved up with greater pressure exerted in order to clean up many of these areas.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

It has occurred to us, Mr. Chairman, that perhaps one of the main reasons for our failure in this regard has been the seeming inability of the Federal Government to make significant strides in having the some 20,000 installations owned and operated by Federal agencies to clean up their own pollution. I do not need to tell this Committee, which has made every effort within its authority to facilitate the Federal Government's putting its own house in order, that from every evidence that we have the strides made by Federal Government in this regard have not been significant. We are not making this statement without due consideration and we are not unreasonable in assuming that the entirety of all the problem areas should have been cleaned up by this date. But certainly more evidence of accomplishment should be indicated by this time. The Federal Gov-