

FWPCA in the Lake Michigan hearing in February—would require that the city construct a biological secondary treatment plant and thereby double its operating cost and then in addition construct a chemical tertiary plant which would cost the city an additional \$50–\$60 a million gallons.

The State of Michigan and Dow Chemical Company cooperated in a study which included a full plant-sized operation and showed that primary plant could achieve the same results—at less cost and without waiting for some future construction grant which would delay the clean up.

Actually, instead of paying the city 25% of the cost of the chemicals, this committee should use the money in demonstration grants elsewhere to show the applicability of this economic breakthrough.

S. 2760

This bill has three sections, all of which warrant attention.

Acid mine drainage control, as well as control of other mine water pollution from either active or abandoned mines, is the first item. This proposal assumes first that there is presently no authority to approach these problems and secondly that their importance warrants an additional \$15 million is required to resolve it.

Actually, the present law covers the situation but the federal agency has not demonstrated either knowledge or desire to work on it. This bill then would act as an excuse for the lack of action to date and make available a monetary reward for such inactivity.

Congressman Robert Jones made history a few years ago when, as Chairman of the Government Operations Natural Resources Subcommittee, he succeeded in getting from Interior the first comprehensive report on what constitutes the mine drainage problem and a program which could give us some answers. That proposal has been largely ignored.

Arguing that abandoned mines is outside the present law is fatuous. The causes of mine drainage are the same for active and abandoned mines. The FWPCA has already made a large research grant to Pennsylvania for the study of mine drainage control. We can either emphasize the treatment approach which at present is limited to adding lime and increasing the dissolved solids in our streams, and at a cost which will be perpetual, or we can determine better mining practice based on a better knowledge of geology, hydrology and mining. There is another alternative—a combination of surface mining, land reclamation and altered flow patterns in abandoned mines. This type research can be effective and permit the federal-state-industry participation which this committee has encouraged. This can be done under present law.

Lake eutrophication is the objective of the addition to Sec. 5. Once again, this is already included in the present law but once again, action has been nil so the lapse is to be covered by new legislation—H.R. 10751 is also concerned with this issue.

Oil Pollution is the third subject of this bill. As passed by the Senate this bill would make oil in a discharge from either a boat or a shore installation a federal offense. It does more, if the Senate Committee report (page 22) is a proper interpretation. The definition of oil would cover "discharged waste that includes oil or oily mixtures".

That means oil or matter mixed with oil is a federal offense; the other contaminants would be a state responsibility. Only confusion will result.

As has been pointed out by others oil is included in state standards approved by the Secretary.

But this bill would also give Congressional approval to an exemption for all federal or state ships and shore installations. To make such an exemption makes a farce out of the proposal we all want clean water.

There is a need to better define who has responsibility when vessels lose oil. The issues of jurisdiction within 3 and 12 miles offshore require resolution. There is also a need to better define the controls for ships in handling hazardous cargo.

CONCLUSION

In summary I wish to commend this committee on its past battle scars in achieving effective water pollution control. Obviously, there will be other scars before the objective is achieved.

But it should be encouraging to know that your actions have improved our streams dramatically since 1948. An eye surgeon friend of mine told me that