

if you take over the marshlands, after a period of years, what do we have? We have trash, rubbish; we have sewage solids.

One of our most expensive jobs is removing the solids that are taken from the sewage treatment plants.

We have also another problem that has been bandied about, and it needs your guidance. That is the handling of dredged materials from harbors.

Now, under the Federal law, the Corps of Engineers is supposed to have jurisdiction over the handling and disposal of such dredged material. A year ago a program was set up between the Corps of Engineers and the Federal Water Pollution Control Agency to make some studies on the handling and the disposal of dredged material and the like; also to study alternate possibilities.

In the course of this they were to determine the actual effects of what went into the lake. They were to determine also the effects of what happens when there is onshore disposal.

A crusade of the Chicago newspapers put the whole thing into an emotional climate, that anything going into Lake Michigan would destroy the lake, and Lake Erie was already a vast swampland. They wanted no part of seeing Lake Michigan look the same as Lake Erie. No dying Lake Michigan. The demand was made for eliminating any disposal of dredge materials into Lake Michigan so as to save the lake. With the publicity and the newspaper crusade, and with the public concern—and very frankly, if I was as scared as those people, I would be demanding the same thing—they shut off the disposal of material into the lake right while this study was underway.

Now, the Congress has appropriated \$1 million for a study. They extended it with another \$6 million, and they are back for another seven this year, to continue it.

But unless we find out actually what is occurring with the material going into the lake, our answer is going to be totally in terms of onshore disposal. That has two limitations.

The first is that for Indiana alone the available space to put dredged material permits 1 year of dredging. Beyond that year, there is no space.

The second is that when they use the marshlands along the shore for fill with this dredged material, they are destroying two things. They are destroying duck habitats, for one; and second, they are destroying the sponge that acts as an equalizing base along the shore.

They will do more to change the ecology of the lake by such a maneuver than by dumping a good deal of material in the lake.

Before we destroy the marsh for all time, we should know what the irrevocable effect will be. There is also the related effect that when this material is piled on shore or piled in a diked area, unless we can come up with some better control than we have had in the past, there is a constant leeching of the material. The salts that are in the material including the nutrients, go into the water. When you drain the leached nutrient into the water and in a shallow area, our potential for algae growth is greater than if this material were carried out in the lake and dumped to the bottom where it can be covered with sand.

All dredge material is not the same. For that which would tend to be cohesive and would tend to hold together, so that it could drop to