

be applicable elsewhere, you would have something, then, that could be used, used quickly, and come up and do what you are trying to accomplish.

Right now, with the shortage of funds, it is better that every city have a primary plan rather than holding up those, particularly the smaller towns that Mr. Denney was referring to, while we are trying to take care of the more advanced requirements of the larger cities.

Mr. Edmondson raised the question as to whether or not a city would agree to the requirement in getting Federal funds, that they would agree that the Secretary can review and approve the method of operation, to assure that it will be the ultimate.

Gentlemen, one of our biggest problems is that we have too few people in the Federal agency who have ever operated any treatment plant. And to leave it to a theoretician to take a look at a plan and to determine whether or not it is going to be operated properly, the best treatment plant in the world can be messed up by an operator in 20 minutes, and also a good operator can take a poor plant and make it work.

So to set up rules and regulations to determine whether it is effective, in my opinion, is a little naive.

ACID MINE DRAINAGE CONTROL

Acid mine drainage, under S. 2760. The proposal assumes that the Federal agency now has no authority in the present legislation to handle mine drainage. This is not true. They have. When they were asked by the Pennsylvania delegation for a résumé of what is known as mine drainage treatment, the excuse was offered that the majority of the Pennsylvania problem is on abandoned mines, and they have not been able to discuss that or touch it, because the requirements in the law limits their application to industrial waste. Abandoned mines are not industrial wastes in their book, and therefore they are outside the purview.

In my book, it is good mental gymnastics, but far from the truth. The cause of acid formation in an active mine and abandoned mine is identically the same. If you can control it in one, you can control it in the other.

Also, if we are going to approach this on the method of treatment alone, we are going to convert one problem into another. We are going to neutralize acid with lime, and instead of having acid stream, we will have a stream very high in dissolved solids—a white stream—and we have got a perpetual cost. Once you shut it off again, the stream goes acid again. Also costs of treatment with lime will add to cost of coal and price it out of the market.

Mr. Jones did the impossible a number of years ago, under Government Operations. He got a report out of the Interior Department on mine drainage, that included the views and considerations of the Geological Survey, the Fish and Wildlife and Bureau of Mines. And in my memory it is the first time all three agencies talked on the same subject. They came up with a report that was good, very good. It outlined a program, where it was, and the potential accomplishment.