and Congress will be obligated to pay those annual payments, no discretion.

Secretary UDALL. I think we ought to face the fact that this is what we are doing and be very straightforward and honest about it, yes.

NOT "BACKDOOR" FINANCING

Mr. HUGHES. Just one comment, Mr. Cramer. You used the word "backdoor." That is a kind of word of art.

Mr. CRAMER. I realized that.

Mr. HUGHES. It is an appropriation. There is an appropriation requirement.

Mr. CRAMER. It is a different type of gimmick not included in the debt ceiling, that is my statement, backdoor or otherwise.

I have no further questions.

Mr. BLATNIK. Mr. Cleveland.

Mr. CLEVELAND. I would like to address myself to one facet of this problem.

CONSULTATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Since, as you said, Mr. Hughes, you had gone over this matter with cities, counties, and States, and sat down with them, your implication was at least that you had some expression of support from them, I think the Secretary would be interested in a letter I received from Mr. Healy, executive director of the New Hampshire Water Supply and Pollution Control Commission. He writes me as follows, under letter dated April 25:

> You might be interested to know, too, that this measure was reviewed at the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission meeting in Portland, Maine, on Tuesday of this week. At the conclusion of the review, the Commission members unanimously voted to recommend that the bill be rejected. There are so many defects in it that this seems to be the preferred course of action, rather than any attempt to offer appropriate amendments. I am sure you, and the other members of the various New England delegations, will be receiving formal notice of the Interstate Commission action from the Executive Secretary, Alfred Peloquin.

Now, with a rather critical letter like that before us and now in the record, I raise the question as to just how much ground work was laid with State, municipal, and county governments before 15907 came up here before this committee?

Mr. HUGHES. Well, I think the State, county, and city organizations obviously can and should speak for themselves.

For the record we did meet very extensively with them, discussed the bill on several occasions and in considerable detail. Their reactions were understandably mixed and——

Mr. CLEVELAND. Excuse me. You said "mixed." Was there anybody who was for it in that group?

Mr. HUGHES. My answer is yes. I think, though, they should speak for themselves, because their positions have shifted from time to time.

Mr. CLEVELAND. Are there available to this committee State authorities to come before this committee and say this is our bill and we are for it?