

And I want to make a statement to you on this. Because the idea has gotten out that the nondegradation policy means no new industry. And this is ridiculous. It has no such effect.

Let me get very specific. The State of New York is a good place to get very specific, because there are many cities on the Hudson River, on the Mohawk and tributaries, for example, that pour untreated sewage into the Hudson River. And the purpose of this act, of course, is to have the municipalities and the industries clean up their effluents.

Now, if you take one of the cities, and I will not mention names, on the Hudson River, which is providing no treatment whatsoever, it is pouring raw sewage in, and it puts in even a primary treatment plant, you have upgraded the quality of the river, have you not, by that one act you have upgraded the quality; and by upgrading the quality without any degradation whatsoever you have opened the door to additional industry right there.

As industry acts, and industry is acting—look in Business Week magazine this week, they are really moving, and I am proud of industry for their investments and their emotion on this. But as this program gets underway, we are going to be improving water, and the door is wide open to new industry, because most of the new industry that is coming in is going to be required by the States—I will not have to require it—to put in the best and most modern water pollution control equipment, and their pollution will be very minimal.

In other words, one of these cities on the Hudson will open the door to a lot of industry, once you clean it up. So that I think the degradation issue or nondegradation issue is being used today as a bugaboo by some of my friends. I do not think it is going to have that effect. I do not think it is going to operate that way.

Mr. McEwen. May I suggest, Mr. Secretary, that it is certainly time now that this be clarified, because certainly this is not understood. Do you say to take the Hudson River, it is a good example of a stream they sorely abuse. If the community along there, with their sewage treatment plants sort of unburdened this stream of handling that waste, then it opens up for new industry to come in and use the stream for disposal of its waste.

I do not think it is understood at all, sir.

ASSURANCE CONCERNING STANDARDS NEEDED

Coming back to the approval, I still feel, possibly it is the old saying, that the best is the enemy of the good, and maybe we should settle for what is good and not necessarily the best.

I think it is terribly important, Mr. Secretary, that communities and industries be able to rely on standards that have been set following public hearings. I have been told that in some communities and industries, in my own area, I have now been told after they have set standards, that now they have got to put in secondary treatment, although it was not required to maintain the quality of the water.

This of course leads to the understandable apprehension that action such as this having been taken, the antidegradation policy simply means that no one can locate an industry in a community that is discharging anything into those waters if it will in any way downgrade