

Further, it was repeatedly stressed during this testimony that large scale pilot projects must be brought into the research effort to bring results. The bigger the plant, the cheaper the cost per gallon and the more effective the technology that is developed.

With all this in mind, the proposal advanced in the Jackson-Anderson legislation that would focus on the construction and operation of a large-scale prototype desalting plant would certainly appear to have merit. It strikes me that in balance, looking back over what we have achieved and looking forward to extending this program another five years, we must undertake a determined effort to begin applying what we have developed. We should not neglect the side benefits, but we cannot become preoccupied with them, either. We must keep the main target in sight, and that target is the eventual production of converted seawater at an economical cost that will bring a significant addition to our dwindling water resources.

I do not believe the Interior Department and this committee are too far apart on their approaches to the application of desalting technology; perhaps only on emphasis. Certainly we must act promptly to assure the continuation of this program, not just through fiscal 1972 authorizations but for a carefully directed five-year effort with new emphasis on large-scale application of the technology that has been developed.

Through annual appropriations review and through the analysis and reporting requirements carried in the authorization bill, I believe Congress will be fully capable of keeping this important program on a vigorous, productive course.

**STATEMENT OF JAMES R. SMITH, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE
INTERIOR, ACCOMPANIED BY JOHN W. O'MEARA, ACTING DI-
RECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SALINE WATER**

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Chairman, I have a summary statement which I would like to read, and a longer statement which I should like to submit for the record.

Senator ANDERSON. Without objection, we shall do it that way.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is an honor and a pleasure to be here today to support legislation for the 5-year program of the Office of Saline Water. I am submitting a longer statement for the record which I will summarize. Accompanying me is Mr. J. W. O'Meara, Acting Director of the Office of Saline Water. At the conclusion of my highlight statement he will be available to answer your questions, and also present our request for the authorization for program activities during fiscal year 1972.

My statement today deals primarily with the legislative request to expand and extend the saline water conversion program submitted by the Department of the Interior; S. 991 has similar objectives. When we compare the provisions of S. 991 introduced by the distinguished chairman of this committee, Mr. Jackson and the cosponsors of the bill, Mr. Allott and Mr. Anderson, with the legislation proposed by the Department of the Interior, it is obvious there is general agreement that the saline water conversion program should be extended for 5 years. The differences between the two legislative proposals are relatively small when judged against the overall intent of both.

The two bills are quite similar for the most part since they are largely concerned with continuing the existing authority beginning in fiscal year 1973. S. 991 recognizes the widespread potential which desalting technology holds for applications in addition to desalting. We intend to make our technology available to all who can use it.