

Senator ANDERSON. Mr. Smith.

Mr. SMITH. I would like to make one more brief comment in this context. As many of you gentlemen know, since approximately the first of the year, the Office of Saline Water, as well as the Office of Water Resources Research, were transferred to the jurisdiction of the Assistant Secretary for Water and Power Resources. This was done in an effort to put under one management head virtually all of the water-related activities of the Department of the Interior so that we could have the kind of broad coordination that can be made possible where there is one boss. And I personally look at desalting, water resources research, and work with the Bureau of Reclamation, as the melding of Interior's water-resource programs which can do nothing except make for better management, better operation, and a stronger program for the future.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my remarks. Mr. O'Meara is here to answer questions. I, of course, would be more than happy to answer any questions which you care to address to me.

Senator ANDERSON. Senator Jordan?

Senator JORDAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Secretary, several year ago, there was a proposed multipurpose project to be installed on a man-made land off the coast of southern California. It was before your time and I do not know whether this question should be addressed to you or perhaps to Commissioner Ramey. But this project, with its joint venture for nuclear energy production and desalting of water, was to be joint ventured by private utilities, by the Government, by municipal agencies in southern California, and it sounded very promising at the time. Do you know what has happened to that project and what chance there is for its revival?

Mr. SMITH. I would not be able to say what chances there are for a revival. Of course, I have been told so many different stories about why the Bolsa Island project fell apart that it is a little hard to sort out where the true facts lie. But if I were to attempt to make an educated guess as to what happened, it was twofold. No. 1, the costs completely out of line as location and design factors were refined, and No. 2, they may have had too many cooks and spoiled the broth.

Senator JORDAN. Do you see any prospect for its revival for something of that magnitude in the foreseeable future?

Mr. SMITH. I assume that in that context, you are talking about the construction of a true prototype larger scale desalting facility?

Senator JORDAN. Yes. That was a tremendous size—I have forgotten the numbers that went with it, but it was not only for energy production but also for enough water to take care of the domestic and industrial needs of a city of a million people.

Mr. SMITH. One of the ultimate goals of the saline water program is the development of technology and under the bill which is before you, a recommendation will be made to the Congress and to the President as to the best type of a plan which can and should be undertaken of a large prototype desalting facility. So I would say that whether it is a Bolsa Island or some other facility, we look forward to construction of a prototype desalting plant. Otherwise, I really see very little use in continuing the existence of the Office of Saline Water if they cannot demonstrate the end result that we are seeking.

Senator JORDAN. If this committee should decide to include a 1-year