

problem areas in Colorado. What we have learned from our test operations is that the types of water that exist in the Arkansas basin can be desalted with the type of equipment we have and we have only some very general estimates of what the cost of desalting that water would be. We have estimated the water at Las Animas could be desalted for about \$1.19 per thousand gallons. That is in a plant of about 11½ million gallons per day.

Senator ALLOTT. Well, I used Las Animas because you mention that in your statement. My question really is not confined just to Las Animas or to the two or three places in Colorado of which we are thinking. But knowing the western parts of Kansas, the Dakotas, Nebraska, New Mexico, and all through the West, outside of the Pacific coast area, where you get saline waters—really saline waters—there is a great area in which a great amount of good can be done if our processes can be brought down to within the reach of these people.

Let me ask you this question: What steps are being taken to make the communities in the West—and I use this term roughly, the area I am talking about—to make them aware of the results that have been achieved and what might be done to help them engage in efforts to find a solution to their own water problems?

Mr. O'MEARA. Senator Allott, the program of providing this technology to the cities and communities we are conducting through the States. In the State of Colorado, we are working with the State water conservation board and we are studying the cities of Brighton, Fort Lufton, Fort Morgan, La Junta, Lamar, and Las Animas, which are representative of the cities in Colorado which have quality water problems. This is extended to other States as I mentioned in my testimony—Texas, California, and the other States. And by working with the States, we are passing the information on to the individual communities.

Senator ALLOTT. Well, I want to point out my interest is not directed just to an individual city in Colorado. Having spent my life in this area of the country, I know the problems that literally hundreds, I suppose, of small towns and cities have. Will you have some kind of a followup, or will you do a followup to see that the States or the responsible State water board, however it is called, in the various States are following up in the dissemination of this information? I am not sure whether they are or are not. I have gotten personally very little reaction, it does not do any good to do this unless we get it to the people who can use it.

Mr. O'MEARA. There is a very important reason why it is important that we do this, Senator, because our research and development program is not standing still. We are constantly making progress, especially with the development of membrane processes that have desalting applications in the inland areas. So we have to continually go back to the States and follow through on these programs so they can have the advantage of the latest technological developments that are occurring in this program.

If I might take just one moment, Senator Fannin has talked about breakthroughs. In my opinion, the greatest breakthrough the Office of Saline Water has achieved occurred in 1955, when at the University of Florida, we were able, for the first time, to remove a dissolved solid from water without a phase change of the water, without going from