

when we did not think it feasible to go forward when we were talking about \$70 an acre-foot water when the Secretary brought out the 22 cents per thousand gallons.

What I am concerned about is the delay. Now, in your statement, you say the possibility of constructing a 30 to 50 m.g.d. prototype plant in the next several years, with the cooperation of Orange County—can that target date be set now or is there a target date?

Mr. O'MEARA. Yes, sir; our target date on the large plant is to have it in operation in 1977.

Senator FANNIN. With a 30 to 50 million gallons per day?

Mr. O'MEARA. Yes, sir.

Senator FANNIN. By 19—

Mr. O'MEARA. 1977, sir.

Senator FANNIN. Well, that is something I did not know about before, because we worry about what is happening. I am particularly concerned as to what is happening from the industry standpoint, whether or not we are coordinating our efforts with industry. I am glad to hear that these programs are continuing, although there is very little publicity about them. I can recall ads that were placed at the time, maybe because we were having this worldwide symposium, and other countries of the world displayed their equipment, as you remember. They had some equipment here or at least diagrams of all that was involved. Are we coordinating our efforts with some of the other countries now?

Mr. O'MEARA. Yes, sir, we are obtaining some information from foreign countries. But from the point of view of export of technology, in terms of the competition for plants that are being built in the world today, it is very keen. Some other nations of the world do not conduct their desalting program in the same manner that we conduct ours. I am referring to the fact that all of the technology we develop is available to anyone who wishes it. Other countries consider the technology they develop in desalting as proprietary information and it is not released so that we can find out what their developments are.

Senator FANNIN. Do you have any reason to believe that they have had breakthroughs that we have not had?

Mr. O'MEARA. No, sir.

Senator FANNIN. How much money is going forward in foreign research from your Department?

Mr. O'MEARA. In the current fiscal year, in foreign research, we are spending \$100,000 from our program.

You say from our program?

Senator FANNIN. Yes; what other programs are involved from the standpoint of cooperation with some of the other countries that we have in this field?

Mr. O'MEARA. We have exchanges of information, and they are limited somewhat, with other countries such as Japan, with Great Britain, France, Italy, and Israel. We are trying to develop a cooperative exchange agreement with the Government of West Germany, which is beginning a desalting program.

Senator FANNIN. You probably recall—I do not—the countries that were going forward to a great extent in 1965 when they were here on that worldwide symposium. Was Germany involved at that time?

Mr. O'MEARA. No; there were only one or two industries in Germany