procedures, notebooks, et cetera, are available for inspection to those who will be willing to treat certain aspects of the data as confidential.

So much for the predicament of the company. The question is whether or not the Government could have changed the course of events, in a realistic manner.

The ultimate goal in a sea water desalination program is the creation of a market and demand for desalting plants here and abroad for at least one process, preferably the most economic one. This implies that commercial organizations must be able to offer desalting plants as part of a reasonable marketing procedure; therefore developmental firms that want to bring a new process to market should have a means of financing this procedure. As things stand, only companies with strong financial structures can even entertain thoughts of engaging in this type of developmental and commercialization program. This is a contradiction of the better mousetrap hypothesis. The situation does not provide the incentives nor the rewards due to those who have made the intellectual and scientific contribution, and who have risked their capital at the initial stage of development, in the naive manner that the Puraq partners have done.

Economic and reliable means of desalting sea water are in the national and global interest. The Government should at least assist undercapitalized companies through those stages of development that demand major funds, once a credible invention has been established by laboratory results and engineering studies.

In the particular case of the Puraq Co., the Office of Saline Water could have been helpful in the following ways:

1. By waiving the patent clause, it could have conceded that the work in the laboratory, costing $600,000, was sufficient to establish our undisputed ownership of this technology, as provided by the patent laws.

2. Having waived the patent clause, it could then have funded the development program by a series of loans payable with interest after the successful commercialization of the process.

3. The Office of Saline Water should have set up a machinery for evaluating properly new processes such as the Puraq process, in order to establish their relative position among all candidate processes, whether or not they are Government-sponsored at that time. Thus conceptual engineering studies similar to the ones performed at Government expense for the MSFD and VTE processes could also have been applied to the Puraq process; even the results from such a study would have immeasurably improved our chances of support from the financial establishment. Most important would have been the inclusion in this evaluation machinery of a panel of experts, scientists and engineers, established as a continuing body with overlapping terms of appointments for its members. This panel, after holding open discussions, should also make recommendations as to what improvements in the technology or what specific laboratory results would be needed for general acceptance of the particular technology, in anticipation of funding as described above.

I am sorry for the typos in this. I only knew yesterday morning that I would be a witness at this hearing.

Senator ANDERSON. Thank you very much for your statement.

Senator Jordan?