

Senator JORDAN. All right; the committee will arrange it at your convenience. We will have them get in touch with you.

Mr. LAZARE. All right; but could I make a comment as somebody outside the legislative process—outside of the Government? I am talking from the point of view of somebody in the scientific field. I agree with you that you believe that you have your panel of experts. There are always questions of who are experts and who are not experts. The question is not whether you believe they are a panel of experts: the question is whether they are experts from the scientific point of view.

Let me point out to you how this is done in other funding bodies, and a lot of discussion has generated this type of procedure.

In other funding bodies, I point out to you that there are panels. These panels are selected very carefully and they are rotating panels, so that one year, a particular proposal for research may be rejected, a couple of years later, with a new group of people on this panel, with the new points of view, this would not be rejected. I am pointing out not the fact that there might be some panels who are expert in some people's eyes, but the question is are they really expert from the point of view of the scientific and academic engineering community.

Senator JORDAN. We cannot settle that. If you want an audience with our people, we will get it for you.

Mr. LAZARE. Thank you.

Senator ANDERSON. That completes the list of witnesses. We will hold the hearings open for another 4 to 5 days. The suggestion of a panel is very fine and Mr. Di Luzio will work it out.

We appreciate all of you being here very much.

Without objection, a copy of Senator Jackson's letter of April 2, 1970, to the President requesting the Science Adviser to submit a report on the saline water program and a copy of the report which was submitted in response to that request will be included in the record at the conclusion of today's testimony.

(The documents referred to follow:)

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C., April 2, 1970.

THE PRESIDENT,
The White House, Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: As you know, the Federal saline water conversion program was initiated in 1952. The most recent major legislative redirection of the program was enacted in 1961.

The program, which is administered by the Office of Saline Water in the Department of Interior, has made major contributions to the technology of desalting. These contributions have had broad applications throughout the world, and have assisted an important desalting industry to become established in the United States.

As in any research and development activity, it was difficult initially to anticipate the course which the program should take. There now are data and experience available upon which to base a thorough examination of the objectives and future direction of the program. The Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs recently held hearings as a basis for the Committee's review of the existing legislative authority for the program. I am writing to respectfully request your assistance in this review.

The Committee would greatly appreciate it if you would request your Science Adviser to submit a report containing his recommendations on the objectives, priorities, and direction which should be given to the Federal program to advance our capabilities to convert saline or other contaminated water for the beneficial use of mankind.

I believe that problems of water supply and decontamination will prove to be among the most complex and urgent resource problems we will face in future