

water demands in both conventional and yet to be developed applications to the stage where continued use and development of the technology can be assumed by industry.

A Federal desalting program involving a high level of support for an indefinite period is not recommended. Instead, a defined effort with specific goals and limits should be undertaken to further develop desalting technology to the point where it can provide an economical alternative to more conventional sources of water. If progress shows that this goal cannot be attained, then the program should be terminated. We hasten to add at this time, this latter alternative seems less probable than the successful outcome of the program.

The course of action recommended here is one where the benefits to be obtained both in dollars and in other ways are expected to be sufficiently in excess of the cost as to make this a worthwhile investment of public funds.

By the end of June 1971, Federal appropriations on desalting through the Office of Saline Water of the Department of the Interior will total \$211 million, with annual expenditures arising from \$175,000 in FY 1953 to