

Senator ANDERSON. We also have a letter from Westinghouse Electric Corp. to be included in the record, and a telegram from Santa Barbara County.

(The documents referred to follow :)

WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC CORP.,
Washington, D.C., April 1, 1971.

Hon. CLINTON P. ANDERSON,
Chairman, Water and Power Resources Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, I am pleased to submit the following statement for inclusion in the record for the Subcommittee Hearings on the Saline Water Program. As General Manager of the Heat Transfer and Water Province Division, I represent the operation within Westinghouse responsible for the design, manufacture, erection and operation of equipment to convert saline, brackish, or otherwise impure water to potable water.

I am very pleased to have an opportunity to comment on Senate Bill #991 which authorizes the Secretary of Interior to continue a program of research, development and demonstration of processes for the conversion of saline and other chemically contaminated water for beneficial use. I have had an opportunity to review the text of this bill and we at Westinghouse are generally in favor of its provisions.

Westinghouse has been engaged in the design and manufacture of desalting equipment for over 40 years. We have a corporate commitment to be the leader in this field and have made major investments of effort and funds to achieve that objective.

Our position has been and continues to be that industry should develop technology whether it be nuclear energy, water desalting or any other field. The role of the Federal Government, in this case the Office of Saline Water, should in our opinion be one of R&D and financial assistance for demonstration projects. In this capacity, OSW would analyze and forecast desalting needs of the country and develop programs to assure that these needs will be met when they develop. Meeting these needs will require not only the development of technology but also the availability of a viable industry with experienced suppliers to design, develop and produce the necessary hardware.

We believe the technology for desalting has developed at least as fast and perhaps faster than the applications for this technology. Nothing new has to be invented in order to build a plant of 100-200 million gallons per day capacity. Westinghouse visualizes such a plant as being made up of individual units each producing 50 million gallons per day as the most practical arrangement. We have arrived at this conclusion through optimization studies conducted in-house and also in cooperation with OSW. We are ready today to provide plants up to 50 million gallons per day on a firm price, warranted performance basis. However, building this first large plant does represent a major extrapolation over the largest single plant now operating in the U.S., the 2.6 million gallons per day plant at Key West, Florida. While the technology and manufacturing expertise is available to build such a plant, questions of economics, operability and environmental impact remain to be proven. The successful operation of a large plant will enable potential users to establish the economics of scale and to accumulate the necessary data on reliability and availability. Only with this information can one justify the inclusion of desalting as an alternative future source of "new water".

We are pleased to note that S-991 recognizes this need and provides for OSW participation in such a project. We believe such participation is essential if it is to be accomplished in a timely fashion. In our view the OSW role should be in the form of technical support and capital cost assistance to the purchaser. We would also expect the OSW to take an active role in development of a significant evaluation program to gain the full benefits of the operation of this plant.

It is also important, in our opinion, that the proposed bill recognizes the application of desalting technology to waste treatment and separation processes. I mentioned earlier that the market has not developed as fast as the technology and this is the chief reason that the desalting industry has not progressed further. The domestic demand for desalting plants has not justified a major investment of money and talent. However, the current emphasis on pollution abatement has provided some stimulus to our business. Desalting technology has proved useful in providing solutions to pollution problems. We are currently building a large