

you recall, we touched on the early days of our own committee, the development of it as a new mechanism within the Congress, so that the Congress could develop a confidence in its ability to deal with the highly complicated problems of science.

Mr. Miller, in his remarks, has touched on some of the points that we have been particularly concerned with. As we look back over the years, it has not been so much the subject matter, although I believe that to be important, but rather the ability of congress to develop within it a mechanism to increase the ability of the Congress to handle these particular matters. In other words, to improve the legislative process is the most fundamental and important objective of all the work that we have done. It appears to me to be the basic strength behind the work that you are doing. When you have finished, the recommendations that you will make will cause the government to be able to take a more penetrating, analytical and objective view of the way in which the knowledge-producing mechanism of your country can be applied to its problems.

The last year has indicated that in the United States, and in our Congress especially, we are reaching an understanding about the necessity that this be so. Up until recently it was very difficult to get people to be concerned over scientific matters. It was difficult to get people to be disturbed about the second order of consequences of our technology. There is not a man in the committee who has not from time to time spoken out on these problems and has found them in truth not to be the kind of issues, important as they are, to have the political appeal to develop around them the kind of public opinion necessary to make headway in the legislative area.

Suddenly things have begun to fall in place, and I think that is important. President Nixon, in his State of the Union Address, made the environment, the improvement of it, a major issue. This major objective of his administration is of fundamental importance because, for the first time, it gives executive leadership and direction to the needs of this particular area. We can see that much support for this objective has come from our activities. It is important that during the last two years we held a colloquium on the environment. That colloquium was inspired by this committee in order to overcome the divided jurisdiction of the House and the Senate Committees. We simply invited all of

the members of Congress and all the Chairmen of Committees that had anything whatsoever to do with matters affecting the environment in the broadest possible way to this colloquium. It was attended by the public in large numbers and it had testimony from witnesses who represented the cabinet. Some of the most knowledgeable people so far as environment and conservation were concerned throughout the country.

From that colloquium came a White Paper which has had tremendous influence on the development of environmental activity within Congress. There is now a Council on the Environment, which has become law recently. We see the President appointing, for example, a committee under Mr. Lawrence Rockefeller, one of the world's greatest conservationists. We see the appointment recently of Judge Russell Train, to head the Council on the environment. We see all kinds of people who, over a long period of time, have been groping to participate in these activities now finally coming to the fore. We believe it to be a tangible sign, evidence of the developing interest that has stemmed from this Congressional activity.

The other point I would like to make is that this committee, over a period of time, has been concerned about Technology Assessment. In my talks with you, Mr. Chairman, and other members of your committee, I have seen a tremendous interest in technological forecasting, the assessment of our technology and its effect on our society. I believe this to be one of the most important developments, which again stems from legislative activity.

We see signs of concern about the need for a Technology Assessment mechanism developing in many, many places, not only in the Congress and not only in your committee. UNESCO has recently published a report on Technology Assessment which shows that there is significant concern in Europe about this matter. This gives me confidence that we are beginning to recognize for the first time the importance of this particular subject, and to tangibly develop a mechanism which can in fact deal with the second and third order consequences of technology.

The National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Library of Congress have recently finished studies in this matter which have been dealt with in public hearings. We, in our committee, expect to be making legislative recommendations, and also recommendations to the