

river and its tributaries. The Potomac River Basin covers 40 per cent of the land area of Maryland in which about one-third of our population dwells and includes urban centers such as Cumberland, Hagerstown, and Frederick in addition to the Metropolitan Washington population. The importance of the Potomac River Basin to Maryland and to the other states in the Basin, to the nation's capital and local jurisdictions need not here be recounted in detail except to note that the water resources of this drainage area currently supply the municipal, industrial, rural, domestic and agricultural, and some recreational needs of more than 3,000,000 persons; the potential of the Basin shall have to be carefully planned and developed on a timely basis in order to serve the wide variety of water needs of the area. The population of which in the next fifty years is expected to reach 7,000,000.

These considerations dictate that we arrive at a practical and balanced development program that copes with the many problems of the Potomac, recognizes financial realities, looks to the total well-being and economic health of the region and at the same time can be realistically accepted by the people as a whole. Certainly it goes without saying that the concerted and comprehensive approach to the problems of the Potomac now under way does not imply for a minute that any of us would, or should, lessen our continuing state and local efforts in our various activities related to these problems. In fact, in actual practice the direct opposite is indicated.

As an example, Maryland at the present time is intensifying the task of developing and applying adequate and effective soil erosion and sediment pollution control procedures. In this effort, I anticipate not only our concerned State agencies will step up current activities, but hope also to have the understanding and cooperation of the various county and local groups as well. Other similar problems in the areas of water supply, water quality control, recreation, flood control and the like will continue to get our full attention and understanding, and the professionals and technicians working in these areas are prepared to give full cooperation to the Potomac study, working through the Potomac River Basin Advisory Committee.

When the executives of the states in the basin and the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia met to form the Potomac River Basin Advisory Committee, we set these as our basic objectives:—to coordinate the views of the several basin jurisdictions on significant matters pertaining to the Potomac; to demonstrate to the responsible federal agencies the great concern and interest of the states and the District of Columbia in these matters; and to advise