Mr. ROBISON of New York. Mr. Speaker, after extensive discussions with Leonard Dworsky, director of the Water Resources and Marine Sciences Center at Cornell University, in my congressional district, a bill entitled the "Pure Drinking Water Act" was drafted and last September, introduced as H.R. 19422 in the 91st Congress. The purpose of this legislation—as developed jointly by Dr. Dworsky and myself—was to improve both the quantity and the quality of the drinking water provided to this Nation's citizens. Its need was based, among other factors, on the result of a survey conducted by the Federal Bureau of Water Hygiene of some 1,000 drinking water systems throughout the country which indicated that, of the systems analyzed, 41 percent were delivering water of inferior or potentially dangerous quality and that, additionally, 79 percent of the systems had not been inspected by State or county authorities in the past year, and that, for 50 percent of the systems, the operators could not remember when, if ever, such an inspection had been made.

At the time of introducing H.R. 19422, I was careful to point out that no public crisis presently existed, and that there was no need for individual concern—as the study in question also forewarned against—but I attempted to make the point that, as a nation, we had become altogether too complacent about the quality of one thing we took for granted when we partook of the same several times every day: The drinking water that flows from the tap in our home, office, factory, or public place. To end that complacency, and to avoid the development of anything resembling a public health crisis, my bill provided, among other things, for the vesting in the Administrator of the new Environmental Protection Agency of authority to develop national drinking water standards, as well as new and badly needed authority to conduct and encourage research to improve methods and procedures of identifying, measuring, and removing potentially toxic materials heretofore present...
in our drinking water, along with training programs for upgrading the capabilities of the personnel of State and local inspection agencies, the personnel of the actual operators of the water systems, and finally, to improve the detection, purification, and delivery mechanisms of all water systems needing such assistance.

Subsequently, to my pleasure and encouragement, I was joined in this effort by my friend and influential colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Rouzes) who introduced a substantially comparable bill in the last Congress. Neither such proposal reached the hearing stage, but I am extremely hopeful that either my now-modified proposal as introduced in this Congress—H.R. 437—-or Mr. Rouzes' version thereof, will not only reach that stage but will also realize enactment into law this year, for I truly believe that action in this area of environmental concern is urgently needed.

Support therefor, along with a general discussion of the background of the problem in hand, is now indicated by the following marks as recently delivered by Eric F. Johnson, executive director of the American Water Works Association, before the Soap and Detergent Association in New York City, and the same is well worth the consideration of all my colleagues:

**WATER—THE FORGOTTEN DETERGENT**

By Eric F. Johnson

WATER, in the water utility field, like so much else, is complex. It is felt we are inclined to say, it is the best detergent, and one without which your products would not do very much. "Duz," one of your members once said, "does everything." "Duz," we pointed out, "does nothing without water." And that should qualify us to talk to you.

The idea that we are both in the detergent business, of course, immediately makes one wonder why we are so different. The difference is obvious. You market your detergents. We sell our water. It is an enemy. And that should qualify us to talk to you.

In the past year or so, AWWA has been devoting a major part of its public information efforts to point out the imbalance between federal attention to water for man and water for people, not with the idea of defending detergent interests, but because of the research and training necessary to achieve parity with other industries that have now-faded almost oblivion. The public utility industry is not looking for grants to public and private institutions that must be enlisted in the effort if it is to be accomplished, because it has been unable to, principally because municipal ownership and political control make the expenditure of funds for public information always difficult and often impossible.

The situation, then, is this:

Over the first 60 years of the century, the water utility industry, in the co-operation of the state health departments and the US Public Health Service, developed the best public water supply service in the world. In 1966, with the transfer of the water pollution control program from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to the Department of the Interior, most of the trained personnel and most of the money for research and training that had constituted the Public Health Service contribution to the water supply effort was diverted into water pollution control, leaving in HEW only a minimal water supply program that has been reduced by 50%.

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a deceptive report on the current status of public water supplies.

Concerned that the scare technique could drive a frightened public into drinking from unsafe sources, AWWA tried to accomplish the same end through educating the legislators involved in providing the funds for the Bureau of Water Hygiene, the HEW agency that works with water utilities, and was able, no doubt with an assist from the fear instilled, to get a small addition to the Bureau’s budget that reversed the trend.

Now the Environmental Protection Agency has a chance to give community water supply the status that it deserves in the total environmental effort and has, as a first step, maintained its separate identity, although it has kept it in a role subsidiary to water pollution control.

The funds proposed for water supply research and training, and for assistance to state surveillance efforts, in the bills to be reintroduced into the 92nd Congress by Congressman Robison of New York and Congressman Rogers of Florida promise to give to the water supply effort the kind of support required to establish its proper status, without burdening the industry with the problem of construction grants.

At the same time, AWWA is mounting an action program hoping to get water utilities involved in the burgeoning interest in the environmental effort to point out not only their accomplishments but the things that they can do, using present technology, to improve water service.

The basic element, though, is public understanding and in this, certainly, your industry can be helpful. And you can be, too. Join AWWA!