

Ciao, Jim Tozzi

Things-environmental just won't be the same without him.

Few question that, either among his critics who see Jim J. Tozzi as the embodiment of the Office of Management and Budget and OMB's intrusive role into EPA activities; or among his many admirers, who insist that when the chips were down Tozzi was among the most loyal and most effective Executive Branch defenders of EPA as an institution over the past 10 years.

Critics and defenders alike acknowledge that Jim Tozzi's decision to retire from the federal government after 20 years marks the end of an era in the environmental field. Clearly among the most influential individuals in shaping federal environmental policies, Tozzi is expected now to capitalize on his conviction that international regulations, rather than just domestic ones, pose major concerns for American industry.

Tozzi had been EPA's budget examiner for OMB when he began to first exert his clout. He took OMB far beyond just budget issues, making it a major factor in EPA legal, enforcement, and regulatory matters as well. That earned him the scorn of many both inside and outside EPA and during all Administrations. More than once, EPA bureaucrats threatened to have Tozzi called before courts to explain his seldom-seen but profoundly-felt clout over agency actions and decisions (*Forum*, May 1982, p.11).

The consummate bureaucrat and turf-builder, Tozzi was most active in environmental policies as Chief of OMB's Environment Branch, a position he held under President's Nixon, Ford, and Carter before becoming OMB Deputy Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

From that new position—a new job created largely for him—he exerted his influence over a wide range of regulatory programs going far beyond environmental controls. Nonetheless, he has kept his keen interest and active hand in the environmental field, and he has remained under President Reagan a formidable influence in EPA activities.

Tozzi put out the word that he is leaving public service shortly after EPA's current controversies became public, in part, it seems, to stifle discussions within the Administration that he himself might be assigned directly to EPA to help resolve its festering problems.

As Tozzi himself said so frequently to others in what has become something of a personal trademark, "Ciao," Jim Tozzi. One way or another, you'll surely be missed.