

We want to emphasize that the public is not apathetic. We have heard this said so many times. It may seem apathetic on a rainy Monday morning, the first day of school. Most of them are highly confused about the highly technical nature of this problem, and I think they would support any solutions.

We would recommend more Federal research money. We would like to see it channeled through people already knowledgeable in the field, your universities, and the people who have done pioneering work, but we could use a great deal more.

I would like also to say one word about natural gas. I have written Congressman Bell about the subject. We feel one thing the Federal Government could do is let the urban areas with pollution problems have all the natural gas they need. We feel the Federal Government is being old fashioned in hoarding the natural gas, the supply of which, I understand, is increasing all the time. We could use some more gas.

Thank you very much.

Mr. BROWN: Thank you very much for your statement.

Mr. BELL: Thank you.

Mr. BROWN: I might say if hearings could eliminate smog, it would have been eliminated many years ago.

Mr. George Fisher, the California Taxpayers Council, asked to speak briefly also. We will welcome a statement from him.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE FISHER, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TAXPAYERS COUNCIL

Mr. FISHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I don't want to appear sarcastic or disharmonious, especially toward you, Congressman Brown, because you were one of our staunch supporters in the years gone by in introducing legislation that would have eliminated effluent content of gasoline, and if that law had been successful, we would have less of a problem now, but the oil lobby was too much, and politics, and we are still fumbling around with smog.

I only have time to introduce myself.

I am George Fisher. I am secretary of the Southern California Taxpayers Council for Simplified Government.

Over the past 20 years we have been studying and writing about smog, and we give no quarter to anyone when it comes to information, technical, political and otherwise, with regard to smog.

I would like to reiterate—I would like to make these two points. It is better in speaking in a short period to make only a few points. So I will just make two.

I would like to say that first over the past 20 years we have kept reiterating that smog can be eliminated instantly, if the health departments all over the country would enforce their own laws and abate a nuisance. That is all they have to do, and all this multibillion-dollar racket would be eliminated immediately.

That is the first point.

The second point I would like to make is with regard to the exhaust devices. This is a little more technical, but I will make it just as simple as I can. The exhaust devices on which the American public is going to spend upward of \$500 million a year is a complete fraud and a hoax, and I will tell you why very briefly.