

Senator ANDERSON. Where are you on your statement?

Mr. SEATH. I have submitted a longer statement and I am reading from a short statement which I thought you would prefer me to do rather than to read the long one.

Senator ANDERSON. We would like to have you do that, but we would like to know where you are. Have you any copies of that? Your full statement can go in the record.

Mr. SEATH. Yes, that was my thought.

Senator ANDERSON. Go ahead.

Mr. SEATH. We believe that this bill, to the extent that your committee can restore it to its original purpose of encouraging foreign investment to come to the United States, will significantly aid our balance-of-payments situation. But to accomplish this, I repeat, the bill has to be restored to its original objective. Only if that is done, can we reasonably expect this bill to increase the inflow of investment funds from abroad.

However, I should like to call the attention of this committee to what I believe is another significant aspect of our balance-of-payments problem. The foreign tax sections of the Revenue Act of 1962 were designed to encourage the repatriation of income derived by U.S. corporations from foreign sources. At the same time, the cost of repatriating that income was increased through the so-called "gross up" provisions. Section 904 of the Internal Revenue Code imposes a limit on the credit against the U.S. tax on foreign-source income which may be claimed by a U.S. taxpayer against his U.S. income tax for foreign taxes paid on the same income. Section 862 describes the method of allocating U.S. expenses against U.S.-source and foreign-source income. In 1944 the U.S. courts decided that the expense allocation rules of section 862 must be followed in determining the limits on allowable foreign tax credits under section 904. The net effect of this interplay is that many U.S. corporations operating with subsidiaries abroad are not receiving the foreign tax credits that we believe Congress originally intended. The result is that such corporations build up unused credits, are thereby encouraged not to repatriate earnings, and the U.S. balance-of-payments situation is not helped at all.

The Treasury Department, which recognized that there is an inequity here, a few days ago, after many months of promises, issued proposed revised regulations under section 862 which were supposed to ease the problems of excess foreign tax credits of U.S. corporations.

We have analyzed these proposed regulations and it is our opinion that, if it was their intent to ameliorate present harsh rules, they are a dismal failure. They do not ameliorate. They merely substitute complicated rules for simple rules without offering any relief at all. This harsh limitation on the utilization of foreign tax credits places U.S. corporations in a position of picking and choosing those foreign subsidiaries from which dividends will be paid on an annual basis in order to avoid the accumulation of unused and unusable foreign tax credits. The solution is a simple amendment to section 904 of the Code providing that only expenses directly related to the production of the foreign income will be allocated against foreign income in determining the limitation on the foreign tax credits. This avoids complicated or unnecessary rules proposed by the Treasury. And it brings dollars back to the United States.