

Mr. LAUSCHE. The Senator has made statements about a Christmas tree with its colored bulbs. On this Christmas tree are there or are there not colored bulbs paying tribute to the harvesters of oysters and clams, the miners of clay, and the manufacturers of tile?

Mr. WILLIAMS of Delaware. There are.

Mr. LAUSCHE. Is this another of those grab bags which are written about in the newspapers?

Mr. WILLIAMS of Delaware. This is the "Grab Bag Act of 1966."

However, I think I made one statement earlier that perhaps should be corrected to a certain degree. I said that there was nothing in this bill that would affect the elderly of America, and that is 99.9 percent correct because the conferees struck out of the bill all those provisions which would help them.

But there is one section, section 214, in which the committee did reduce the excise taxes on hearses by 3 percent as compared with existing law, and perhaps that is the contribution to which the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. Long] was referring.

Mr. LAUSCHE. I did not hear what the Senator said.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Delaware. The conferees reduced the excise tax rate on ambulances and hearses by 3 percent as compared with existing law, and that is the only contribution that they made to the elderly.

Mr. LAUSCHE. A final question: The provision dealing with health to the old is gone?

Mr. WILLIAMS of Delaware. It is gone, yes.

Mr. LAUSCHE. But the provisions dealing with help to the harvesters of oysters and clams, the miners of clay, and the manufacturers of tile is still in?

Mr. WILLIAMS of Delaware. Those provisions are still in.

Mr. LAUSCHE. And those provisions provide added tax relief to those special groups?

Mr. WILLIAMS of Delaware. They do. To begin with, it was not proper that these items be inserted as a rider to a bill which was designed to amend and modify our method of taxing income of foreign investors.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

(At this point Mr. INOUE assumed the chair as Presiding Officer.)

Mr. LONG of Louisiana. Mr. President, I should like to straighten out a few matters on which there seems to be misunderstanding.

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The Senator made the statement that this bill provides ambulances and hearses an additional tax break. Perhaps he would like to revise his remarks to correct himself.

Ambulances and the ambulance-

hearse combinations already have the benefit of the 7-percent excise tax rate that passenger cars have. But if a man buys a straight hearse, which is not part ambulance and part hearse, he must pay a 10-percent tax.

It was the thought of the Senator from Indiana that we ought to give to a man who buys a hearse the same tax treatment that we give to someone who buys an ambulance or a combination ambulance-hearse. So, in justice to undertakers, we accepted the amendment of the Senator from Indiana. The Treasury thinks that it is only fair that these vehicles should be taxed alike, and so do we.

Mr. SMATHERS Mr. President, will the Senator yield? Does this constitute relief for a dying industry?

Mr. LONG of Louisiana. I suppose it would be viewed that way.

Perhaps the Senator from Ohio would like to revise his remarks. He referred to the harvesters of oysters.

Mr. President, we do not do anything in the bill for the harvesters of oysters. Involved here, so far as oysters are concerned, are not the oyster shells that have oysters in them, but the ones who have not seen an oyster for many a year. These are the empty shells beneath the sand that someone digs up, washes and cleans, crushes and from which cement is made. We would give them this consideration, which amounts to about a half million dollars in revenue.

Mr. President, the reason that we give them this consideration is that the people who are taking these oyster shells and making cement from them are competing with people who make cement from limestone. It is a matter of granting the same depletion allowance to minerals which are used for the same purposes.

Both are depletable and both should have the same allowance. The Treasury Department said if there is going to be depletion at all, this arrangement would be about as good as any. It provides tax equity between the industries.

Mr. President, with respect to this talk about discriminating in favor of the Harvey Aluminum Co., I wish to say that no one raised the point at the time we were passing the investment tax credit law in 1962 and the amendment to it in 1964. I do not recall if any one from any U.S. possession protested the exclusion of the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and Guam.

I wish to ask the junior Senator from Florida if he has any recollection of such a protest.

Mr. SMATHERS. I do not recall any such protest. As a matter of fact, it has been amazing to some that this legislation has not been passed before. We have many programs calculated to assist our possessions and we have provided programs calculated to help the develop-