

is photosynthesizing and producing a tremendous amount of oxygen, and it could conceivably change the balance of the oxygen in the atmosphere if it were destroyed. We don't know this. But the problems that Congressman Brown referred to of looking at the Tropics in a different way as we consider agriculture and exploitation are real ones. We don't know what one might do by clearing the Amazon forest. It is possible that it will be cleared, but I suspect it would be disastrous.

Mr. DADDARIO. But it is amenable to solution?

Dr. BLAIR. It is amendable to solution, but there is not the competence now in Latin America or probably even here in the United States to do it, to provide the solution, because we have not worked there adequately, as Dr. Ripley says.

Mr. DADDARIO. And this program would be one step in that direction?

Dr. BLAIR. This program would be directed toward such problems—part of it would involve this particular problem.

Mr. DADDARIO. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. MILLER. I was a little bit surprised, Doctor, when you referred to eucalyptus as weeds. I have an experience I would like to relate to you where sometimes people in science throw these terms around and they shock the nonscientist.

I used to be executive officer of the California Division of Fish and Game. We had quite a problem in Carmel country with deer coming. Deer have a great affinity for roses. You know this. So we had a mass meeting to see what could be done about the deer. One of our biologists in discussing deer with all of the good ladies, the rose growers present, said deer are ruminants, they don't eat grass, they browse, they eat weeds. And one woman said, "Yes, but they eat my roses." And he said, "Well, madam, as far as the deer are concerned, your roses are just weeds." And the meeting was all over. Politically and otherwise, we could never lick this statement. Roses were weeds.

Dr. BLAIR. The best definition I have ever heard of a weed is that a weed is a plant or animal out of place. And I think this is probably our working definition of a weed.

Mr. MILLER. Do you agree with him that the roses as far as the deer were concerned are weeds?

Dr. BLAIR. Well, I will admit it.

Mr. MILLER. I am very happy, Doctor, to hear you. I think what you have said and what Dr. Ripley has said merely points up some of the problems that are going to confront us in the future. It is high time we take hold.

I have no other comment.

Mr. DADDARIO. Do you have any further comment, Mr. Brown?

Mr. BROWN. No.

Mr. DADDARIO. We certainly appreciate your appearing before us this morning. Thank you.

Dr. BLAIR. I appreciate the opportunity.

Mr. DADDARIO. Thank you for coming all the way from that great State of Texas.

Our next witnesses are Dr. John Olive and Dr. Theodore Sudia.

Dr. Olive is the executive director of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, and Dr. Sudia is associate director. We are