

war, and this affects the entire economy. We had credit controls during World War II, and for part of the Korean war. This committee tried last year to reestablish—not the controls—but the authority for them during a national emergency. However, we were badly beaten on the House floor. One of the reasons we were badly beaten was the charge that we had not held hearings on this issue—that it was added to the bill as an amendment after the hearings ended.

We have provided such standby authority in section 208 of this bill, and now Governor Bryant, we want to go into that with you.

STATEMENT OF HON. FARRIS BRYANT, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PLANNING; ACCOMPANIED BY MORDECAI M. MERKER, GENERAL COUNSEL; AND LEONARD SKUBAL, CHIEF, ECONOMIC STABILIZATION DIVISION

Mr. BRYANT. Madam Chairman and members of the Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs, I am pleased to have this opportunity to discuss with you H.R. 11601.

The Office of Emergency Planning is involved in the development of preparedness plans and programs which are intended for use in the event of an extraordinary national emergency situation. Included in such plans is legislation specifically covering consumer credit controls. If such controls become necessary, we would submit draft legislation to the Congress.

We have taken this approach in our planning for two reasons:

- (1) If consumer credit controls become necessary, a program administered by the President should have the support of the Congress, and
- (2) If consumer credit controls become necessary, legislative support for such a program would have the best chance of enactment at that time.

There appears to be general legislative authority for consumer credit controls in section 5(b) of the Trading with the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. App. 5(b) and 12 U.S.C. 95a). I have discussed that law in some detail in my report to the chairman of the House Committee on Banking and Currency. By citing this authority I do not mean to imply that we would plan to rely upon it without further congressional action. In a most extraordinary emergency situation, however, it could be used.

Accordingly, we do not feel that more standby authority, such as section 208, is needed at this time. If, however, the Congress decides to enact such additional authority at this time, we strongly recommend that no restriction, such as the restriction contained in the last sentence of section 208 with respect to real estate credit, be included in such legislation.

The other provisions of H.R. 11601 which would require full disclosure of credit charges would be in accord with the President's program. Those provisions, however, are not within the responsibility of the Office of Emergency Planning, and I defer to the departments and agencies having a direct interest in the subject matter.

Mrs. SULLIVAN. Thank you, Governor.

I want to make a comment before we begin the questioning. Incidentally if we don't have time to complete the questioning, I have a series of questions I will read into the record for you to answer when you correct your transcript.