

Senator CHURCH. Our witnesses this morning are six in number.

The first gentleman on the witness list is Mr. Milton A. Pearl, the Director of the Public Land Law Review Commission. Mr. Pearl, please come forward and be seated.

STATEMENT OF MILTON A. PEARL, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC LAND LAW REVIEW COMMISSION

Mr. PEARL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator CHURCH. Do you care to have anyone accompany you?

Mr. PEARL. We have members of the staff here, and I would like to introduce them to you as we go along, Mr. Chairman.

Senator CHURCH. Please proceed as you see fit.

Mr. PEARL. We have a statement here by Chairman Wayne Aspinall. As you know, Mr. Chairman, as Chairman Aspinall told you, a previous commitment precluded his attendance here in Washington today. He is out of town and he regretted the inability to be here and asked that I read his statement. If this is agreeable with you, we can proceed to read his statement or proceed in any way that you would like.

Senator CHURCH. That would be fine. Do you have a separate statement?

Mr. PEARL. No, sir. I do not.

Senator CHURCH. Very well. Why don't you proceed then to read Congressman Aspinall's statement?

Mr. PEARL. I would be glad to.

STATEMENT OF HON. WAYNE N. ASPINALL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF COLORADO, CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC LAND LAW REVIEW COMMISSION (AS READ BY MILTON A. PEARL, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC LAND LAW REVIEW COMMISSION)

Mr. PEARL. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, we are pleased to have the opportunity to present information and data concerning the work of the Public Land Law Review Commission in support of our request for the enactment of legislation extending, by 18 months, the time within which the Commission shall report, and increasing, to \$7.39 million, the limitation on appropriations that shall be available for the entire Commission review. As you know, existing law, Public Law 88-606, requires that the Commission submit its report by December 31, 1968, and that appropriations be limited to \$4 million.

In other words, we are asking for an 18-month extension and for an increase of \$3.39 million in appropriation authority. In addition, the legislation before you includes a provision to authorize the Commission to take testimony under oath.

This being our first appearance before this committee, which has oversight responsibility for the Commission's activities, we will, with your forbearance, briefly sketch how we organized for our tasks and the progress we have made, in addition to providing specific information concerning the need for the legislation before you today.