

Mr. McCARTHY. Would the gentleman from Florida yield?

Mr. CRAMER. Just a second.

Concerning whether or not consultation took place, in the reply to the chief clerk of the Public Works Committee of the Senate, it was stated that these organizations were consulted. However, these organizations have advised the Department of Commerce that their records do not show that they were consulted.

Now, this is a pretty serious situation.

I would like to have the staff investigate this matter, and also I would like to ask further, since I understand that checks have not been written on this loan yet, that they not be negotiated until this matter can be thoroughly investigated.

Mr. EDMONDSON. I think the gentleman from New Hampshire has already made the proposal, which has a great deal of merit, but if you want to state it formally for the record—

Mr. CLEVELAND. I propose that we direct the staff of this committee to investigate the nurserymen's case that Mr. Cramer has discussed, the case Mr. McCarthy has discussed, and also investigate the clay pipe case; and that this be the first order of business in hearings that I propose we hold on Tuesday following the Thanksgiving week.

Mr. EDMONDSON. Is the gentleman proposing that they investigate preceding the hearings?

Mr. CLEVELAND. I think that should be done.

Mr. EDMONDSON. You may have a time problem on trying to investigate all three of those cases, and have hearings on them the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

Mr. CLEVELAND. Mr. Chairman, if the investigation is not complete, I still think it would be helpful to have the hearings at that time, because if the investigation is not complete, at least the staff will have enough information so that we can pose constructive questions to the EDA in regard to these matters. They certainly have information with regard to the same subject matter.

Mr. EDMONDSON. The Chair wants to carry out the wish of the subcommittee. If the subcommittee wants to have the staff go into some of these areas, we will certainly direct them to do so without any delay.

Mr. ROBERTS. Would the gentleman from New Hampshire yield?

Mr. CLEVELAND. Yes.

Mr. ROBERTS. Would the gentleman amend his motion to make it the subcommittee—I am willing to go with the staff, and I think you are, too, and I think we will get a lot more information if we go with them—the whole subcommittee.

Mr. EDMONDSON. I think within the time limits it will be impossible to get the subcommittee out in the field. I think the suggestion of the staff going is good. I think hearings based on staff findings will be in order.

I will try to get the chairman's approval for a hearing date at the earliest possible date following some effective exploration of the matter by the staff.

I will certainly do everything I can to expedite the staff inquiry into it.

I think, too, that we would like to get, if we can, for the record the criteria that has been developed, the regulations that have been developed by EDA for implementation of section 702.