

sibility of making a complete record here, for this is not a hearing in which the committee only has the responsibility of seeing to it that the legal requirements of a public hearing are met. It is not that type of a hearing.

This is a hearing for the purpose of making a detailed record of all available information, evidence, and data that the parties interested in the subject wish to submit to the committee. That is why it might be described as a "slow bell" hearing. We certainly owe it to the parties at interest to give them whatever time is necessary to change the record. That is why I have not put on the pressure to shut any witness off or to put any time limitation on the questioning period.

I am now ready to hear the Alaskan witnesses. I turn this part of the hearing over to my great friend and distinguished colleague from Alaska, Senator Gruening. I am going to ask him to make whatever kind of a statement he wants to, and present the witnesses. After he makes his statement and before he presents the witnesses, I want to read a letter from Senator Bartlett, insert a statement into the record that he wishes to file for the record, and make a brief comment on his statement, which I appreciate receiving very much. But having mentioned Senator Bartlett's name, I want to make this report to those present.

I am delighted to be able to report that he is making a very rapid recovery from his recent illness, that it is only a matter of a few days before he will be back in his Senate seat on the floor of the Senate, and to his Alaskan constituents let me say, as you will note from the insertions that I shall describe later when I insert his material in the record, Senator Bartlett has stood shoulder to shoulder with us over the years as we have battled away here in the Senate to protect sound policies for the administration of our Federal forest lands.

I am very delighted now to turn the hearing over to Senator Gruening for any statement he wishes to make and for the introduction of his constituents as witnesses.

STATEMENT OF HON. ERNEST GRUENING, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA

Senator GRUENING. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. It is my privilege today to introduce to you and this distinguished committee a most important group of Alaskans representing the lumber manufacturing and logging industry of my State. These representatives of a vital industry in Alaska can, I believe, make an exceedingly useful contribution to the record of these valuable hearings by presenting this committee with certain basic facts concerning the forest products industry in Alaska and the position of the Alaska industry on matters affecting Alaska uniquely.

Although the industries based on timber resources in the Northwest are of comparable importance in the States of Oregon, Washington, and Alaska, the status of the industry in Alaska differs significantly from that existing in Oregon, Washington, and California. In Alaska, the forest products industries are just beginning to develop into an economic factor of significance. The full growth of a flourishing economy, in which these industries will take their place, lies in the future of Alaska.