

Second, these very hearings provide us, although it has certainly not been the basic purpose of the hearings, with very useful information.

We have also received correspondence from the domestic industry over the last several weeks and months on the subject.

Finally, I might say that the discussions with the Japanese beginning February 20 will be a very important factor in our review of the situation.

Senator HATFIELD. But with the conditions that have existed over the past number of years and the fact that you were compelled by some internal or external pressures to review the situation in the past and deny the application of this particular part of the Export Control Act, in spite of this background, do I understand you to say that the decision of the Department is still contingent upon hearings that were called by Senator Morse and discussions that are to be held in the future with the Japanese?

Mr. NEHMER. I would not use the word "contingent", Senator, but I would say that in answer to your question as to the procedure we are now using, what we are doing in terms of the review, I was just suggesting that we avail ourselves of all possible information that we have access to. Certainly the record of these hearings would be a very important part of that.

Senator HATFIELD. But you see, Mr. Nehmer, Senator Morse called these hearings of his subcommittee because of the crisis in this problem that had not been solved by the agencies of Government. When you indicate at this time that your agency has had previous reviews and they are engaged now in analysis under Export Control Act authority, it gives the impression that you have either not cared to move on this problem or that you will only move under great pressure. I want to say to you with all politeness that I do not mean this personally or anything, but the people in the State of Oregon have certainly, I think, valid grounds upon which to believe that there is little interest here in Washington by you and the Federal agency as to their problem. I think, and if I might be frank with you, I think your testimony tends to bear this out, because you indicate here so clearly that which has been my suspicion for quite some time. That is, that either you have turned a deaf ear to the industry itself or you have depended primarily upon cold statistical reports of other agencies, or that you are so completely a part of this administration team that you are not free agents to move within your own professional judgment to make decisions based upon the facts in the case, but rather upon the politics of it as it relates to what is the politics of the White House.

So, consequently, here we, as representatives of the people of Oregon, are confronted with testimony that indicates well, yes, we have been studying this and we are going to study it further, we are going to study it and study it and overstudy it and study it to death, or we are going to see what the Japanese have to say on this. These are impressions that I am merely relating to you, as I say, kindly and certainly not with any rancor or any intended attack or indictment on you, but just impressions that I must relate to you in representing the people of my State.