

My concern is one of bypassing the Appropriations Committees, which is something that this committee will have to consider and work out if this is given. What was your thinking on how this would be handled?

Dr. CRAFTS. Senator Allott, this is, in a sense, what it amounts to. It is a commitment on the Appropriations Committees to appropriate the money obligated under this advance contract authority. This, of course, is generally looked on with disfavor by the Appropriations Committee, by the Congress and by the Bureau of the Budget. There are a few exceptions that have been made.

This is one reason why the amounts proposed of \$30 million per year for only 2 years, is so limited. The justification for departure from the normal procedure here is an effort to provide for only 2 years one more tool to move in on areas where there is a particular problem of escalating prices.

If this legislation is passed as proposed to be amended, this would be a contract of the United States which in due course would have to be honored. I am sure that there will be varying views about this by members of the Appropriations Committees.

Secretary UDALL. Senator, if I may add one other thing, I am told that authority similar to this is contained in the Federal Highway Act. One of our feelings all along, because our land acquisition problems are not different in any degree from the highway program, that if an authority of that kind is useful for them and if it has been tested and tried that it might be equally useful for us, too.

Senator ALLOTT. I think it could be worked out with some refinement. I am not certain what the reaction of the Appropriations Committees particularly the Appropriations Committee in the House, might be to this. We are all aware of the problem, we are all concerned about it, and we are all anxious to work something out. At a later time we can discuss the specifics. But I can see that it is going to take more work before it will be acceptable.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Secretary Udall and Mr. Hartzog and Dr. Crafts. Your testimony has been very helpful. We are in your debt for the tremendous job you have done in connection with this land and water conservation fund program.

I do think what we have discussed here today is a prudent answer to a very difficult problem and we certainly will see to it that the Senate acts speedily on the recommendations that have been made. I am hopeful that we can get a bill out very shortly.

Thank you very much.

Secretary UDALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair will endeavor to hear from the Corps of Engineers and the Chief of the Forest Service before adjourning. Then we will resume at 2 o'clock.

Our next witness is Brig. Gen. Charles C. Noble, Deputy Director of Civil Works, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, accompanied by Col. James B. Meanor, Jr., Executive Director of Civil Works, Chief of the Corps of Engineers; Harry O'Neill, Chief of Management and Disposal Division, Directorate of Real Estate; and Mark S. Gurnee, Chief of Civil Works Operations Division.