

The CHAIRMAN. I wonder, it might be well, now if Senator Long could make his statement, and then we can ask questions of any of the witnesses at the table. Is that all right, Governor?

Governor McKEITHEN. That is fine.

The CHAIRMAN. You go ahead, Senator Long.

STATEMENT OF HON. RUSSELL B. LONG, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

Senator LONG. I am going to abbreviate my statement, Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of those of you here. To make it clear that we of Louisiana favor the purpose that your bill seeks to accomplish, Mr. Chairman, I have consistently voted for the funds to support programs of this sort, and expect to do so in the future.

In other words, as far as the program that you have in mind, their land and water conservation fund, we expect to vote and support whatever amount of money is necessary for this fund, and we favor more, not less, for it.

Now what disturbs us about this is that when we tap the Outer Continental Shelf these revenues should not be regarded as some pot of gold that somebody found at the end of the rainbow. They should be looked upon in light of what they actually are. The coastal States have this burden upon them, which should be recognized. The legislation that I recommend says that the remainder of that fund should be spent in developing the same kind of revenues that are being depleted—in this instance, the resources of the sea.

So that we think that the needs in that area are tremendous, and they will become much greater, as time goes by, especially if we develop those resources the way that they should be developed, and now the Governor has indicated something of what the burden of it is. May I say that we in Louisiana derive most of our State revenues, either directly or indirectly, by taxes on the oil and gas industry.

That is our biggest industry. It accounts for over 40 percent of industrial employment, if you look at the direct income as well as the indirect income. Frankly, that industry is moving out into the sea.

These upland resources are being depleted. The same people who work these upland resources will be working these resources of the sea. We are facing a serious financial crisis in State government, as more and more, our efforts move out into the sea. As we deplete the resources that are beneath State land and beneath privately owned lands, and move out into the sea, this State, using the same labor, the same resources, the same contractors, the same business people to develop it, will find that the burden will be not less, they will be greater, on State government. Yet, the funds to provide the sanitary facilities, the schools, the education, the police protection, the roads, recreation facilities, and police protection, and various other things that are required for people to live somewhere, and to be a part of any government, would not be there.

Now if I might just point to one single problem that is a part of developing the sea which is not a problem with regard to an upland State, is the problem of a tropical hurricane. The property damages from Hurricane Betsy alone—that is one tropical hurricane—were estimated to be approximately \$1 million in Louisiana alone.