

Governor McKEITHEN. Senator, I don't differ greatly with you on anything you have said. My one point is that when we divide the money up, Senator, let's just consider carefully whether or not the States from whose coasts this separation is made aren't entitled to more than a State that doesn't bear any of the burden whatsoever.

That is what we are asking here, and we are saying that if you go forward piecemeal, without the opportunity of the coastal States to present their position, the weight of the bill could be destroyed. That is what we are saying.

Let's divide it up, but give the States that are contiguous to the Outer Continental Shelf, such as your State, an opportunity to make their position clear as to an equity they feel they have of more than just an even share with the other States.

That is what we are saying.

Senator KUCHEL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Governor. The two Senators from Louisiana have been extremely helpful also.

Senator Hansen?

Senator HANSEN. Well, let me say, Mr. Chairman, that this has been a very instructive session here this morning. I want to compliment all of the distinguished representatives from the State of Louisiana for the very fine contributions they have made.

I think there have been touched upon a number of concerns that are of real interest to all of us. I am going to be on hand to listen attentively to the further discussions on these bills as time moves along.

I have no questions now. I can say that some of the things to which Governor McKeithen refers apply equally to the inland States, wherein there are large areas of untaxed land, such as in our State, that must be policed, must be patrolled and governed and administered, and because we find a discrepancy between the revenues that come back to us from the Federal share of oil rights, we join with the distinguished representatives from the State of Louisiana in asking that that percentage of royalty return be increased.

I think that the delegates from Louisiana have pointed out very clearly the reasons why we feel we are entitled to a larger share of those returns, just as they do in the State of Louisiana.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Governor McKEITHEN. May I make one further point, Senator Jackson, before we leave? And thank you very much, Senator Hansen.

The CHAIRMAN. Certainly.

Governor McKEITHEN. You know, as well as I, that a strong feeling in this country now has been indicated by many Governors and candidates for President of this great country of ours that a part of the Federal revenues derived from taxes in a particular State should be sent back to that State in the form of a check or a trainload of money.

I don't subscribe to that theory, because this Government is hard pressed enough now to get by on its income, and I think it is the States' responsibility to raise additional taxes.

But what I am getting at is this, and it would be my guess that if it were put to a vote of the Governors, the majority would say, "Yes, give us back some of the money you collect out of our State in direct grants without any strings attached."