Mr. Moss. I was most gratified that the President in his consumer interests message to the Congress on February 6 of this year endorsed this type of legislation.

The resolution authorizes and directs the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a study and investigation of our system of automobile insurance.

To do this, the Secretary has been given 18 months and authorized $2 million. However, in view of the critical nature of this problem, I am tending more and more to the view that 18 months is an excessive period of time to take for this study.

It is my expectation that the Secretary will present to the Congress either an interim report or in his final report recommendations which will result in ending: First, the constant and staggering escalation of automobile insurance premiums; second, the oftentimes capricious refusal to issue a renewal automobile policy and arbitrary cancellation of such policy without notice or explanation; third, the gross disparity between premiums paid for automobile insurance and amounts paid out as claims; fourth, the bankruptcy of companies engaged in writing automobile insurance which has left those uninsured through no fault of their own, with great personal financial loss in many cases; and fifth, lengthy claim procedures which only result in nothing more than a loss of time and effort.

So that these hearings may be conducted as expeditiously as possible and to permit members of the subcommittee to more fully explore matters of importance with witnesses, I am requesting that each witness limit himself to a 10-minute summary of his statement which, of course, will be printed in full in the hearing transcript.

(The bill, House Joint Resolution 958, and departmental reports thereon, follow:)

[H.J. Res. 958, 90th Cong., first sess.]

JOINT RESOLUTION To authorize the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a comprehensive study and investigation of the existing compensation system for motor vehicle accident losses, and for other purposes

Whereas Congress finds that suffering and loss of life resulting from motor vehicle accidents and the consequent social and economic dislocations are critical national problems; and

Whereas there is growing evidence that the existing system of compensation for such loss and suffering is inequitable, inadequate, and insufficient and is unresponsive to existing social, economic, and technological conditions; and

Whereas there is needed a fundamental reevaluation of such system, including a review of the role and effectiveness of insurance and the existing law governing liability; and

Whereas meaningful analysis requires the collection and evaluation of data not presently available such as the actual economic impact of motor vehicle injuries, the relief available both from public and private sources, and the role and effectiveness of rehabilitation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) the Secretary of Transportation (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary"), in cooperation with those other Federal agencies which possess relevant competencies, as provided in section 4, is authorized and directed to conduct a comprehensive study and investigation of all relevant aspects of the existing motor vehicle accident compensation system. Such study and investigation shall include consideration of the following—

(1) the inadequacies of such existing compensation system in theory and practice;

(2) the public policy objectives to be realized by such a system, including an analysis of the costs and benefits, both monetary and otherwise; and