his remarks the gentleman from Colorado, the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs already alluded to it and specified his belief that the 1964 act requires continued renewal and leasing development of these lands until the end of 1983.

It is my understanding that this bill, H.R. 5161, creates a new wilderness area, the San Rafael Wilderness, which adds about 145,000 acres of land to lands administered under the provisions of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Now, I am gravely concerned about the administration of lands under the Wilderness Act by the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture insofar as mineral development is concerned. In the report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs on H.R. 5161, there is the following reference to oil and gas leasing.

"However, as practically all of the area has been segregated from oil and gas leasing since 1953 and much of it has also been withdrawn from mining location since 1936, the area has probably not been prospected thoroughly. The area will remain open to mineral development under the conditions stated in the 1964 act."

It has come to my attention through testimony of representatives of the Department of the Interior at the hearings on this legislation and from policy statements by the U.S. Forest Service, that there is an erroneous interpretation by the Executive agencies of those sections of the 1964 Wilderness Act dealing with oil and gas leasing af lands within wilderness areas under the Mineral Leasing Act.

There are two sections in the Wilderness Act that apply to mineral development of wilderness areas. Section 4(d)(2) of the Wilderness Act provides for obtaining information on mineral values of wilderness areas by the Executive agencies. Section 4(d)(3) provides for the development of minerals under the mining laws and the various mineral leasing acts by private industry, and reads in part as follows:

"(3) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, until midnight December 31, 1983, the United States mining laws and all laws pertaining to mineral leasing shall, to the same extent as applicable prior to the effective date of this Act, extended to those national forest lands designated by this Act as 'wilderness areas' . . ."

In the administration of primitive and wilderness areas under the 1964 Wilderness Act, I have been advised that the Secretary of Agriculture acting through the Forest Service will not recommend approval of oil and gas leases except where the lands subject to the least can be developed from drill sites located outside of a primitive or wilderness area. This policy is expressly set forth in the Forest Service manual and has been repeated in communications to private industry. In other words, the Secretary of Agriculture has construed section 4(d)(3) of the 1964 Wilderness Act to authorize the Secretary to prohibit the leasing of wilderness or primitive area lands for the purposes of oil and gas development if surface use is required. Since the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act, the Department of the Interior, act upon the recommendations of the Secretary of Agriculture, has issued no oil and gas leases in wilderness or primitive areas with the right of surface entry. This has effectively blocked any development of wilderness and primitive areas for oil and gas purposes. It is depriving the United States of what might be substantial revenues at a time when the Treasury is sorely in need of every cent it can get.

This interpretation of the Executive agencies flies directly in the face of both the intent and the intent and the expressed language of section 4 of the Wilderness Act. The passage of the subject bill, H.R. 5161, appears to be an appropriate time to reemphasize the intent and purpose of section 4(d)(3) of the Wilderness Act, and to make this perfectly clear to the agencies administering lands subject to the Wilderness Act. It was at the time of the passage of the Wilderness Act, and is now, the intent of Congress that the Mineral Leasing Acts, as well as the mining laws, shall have a meaningful application to primitive and wilderness lands until December 31, 1983. Applications for oil and gas leases may not be rejected by the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture solely on the basis that such lands are within a primitive or wilderness area.

Is the gentleman from Nevada [Mr. Baring], chairman of the Public Lands Subcommittee, in agreement with my statement as to the effect of the provisions of the Wilderness Act on oil and gas leasing, and the intent of the Congress in this regard?

Mr. Baring. Mr. Speaker, I am in complete agreement with the gentleman's statement. The Wilderness Act was the result of 8 years of hearings, studies and