

Mr. KEITH. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BURKE. The Chair will recess because of the rollcall in the House, and we will be back here to resume hearings in about 10 or 15 minutes.

Our first witness then will be Mr. J. Steele Culbertson, when the committee returns.

(Short recess.)

Mr. BURKE. The committee will be in order.

Our next witness is Mr. J. Steele Culbertson.

We welcome you to the committee, Mr. Culbertson.

If you will identify yourself for the record, you may proceed.

STATEMENT OF J. STEELE CULBERTSON, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL FISH MEAL AND OIL ASSOCIATION; ACCOMPANIED BY EARL CONRAD

Mr. CULBERTSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to appear before you and other members of the committee and tell you something about our industry and some of our problems.

I am J. Steele Culbertson, director of the National Fish Meal and Oil Association, whose members are engaged in this industry.

I have with me Mr. Earl Conrad from the Haynie Products Co., Inc., of Baltimore, who represents a member company.

Mr. BURKE. We welcome both of you.

Mr. CULBERTSON. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, rather than take the time it would take to read the statement, I thought I might summarize it.

Mr. BURKE. You may summarize it, and your statement will appear in the record as though it was given.

Mr. CULBERTSON. Thank you very much.

Members of the National Fish Meal and Oil Association are engaged in commercial fishing and in the manufacture of fish meal, fish oil, and fish solubles, and account for 75 to 85 percent of the total U.S. production of these products.

They own and operate 25 to 35 large manufacturing plants situated along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, extending from Maine to Texas, which have a value of over \$40 million.

They also own and operate one of the most modern fishing fleets in the United States, consisting of 600 fishing and auxiliary vessels, valued at more than \$50 million.

The principal species harvested is the menhaden, a member of the herring family, and the largest domestic fishery.

In some years this fishery alone has produced over 2.3 billion pounds, and accounted for over 43 percent of the total combined landings of all species of fish and shellfish in the United States.

At the fisherman's level, these fish have an annual value of approximately \$25 million, and at the processor's level, approximately \$50 million.

It is also one of the oldest domestic fisheries which was commenced on a commercial basis almost 100 years ago for the recovery of the menhaden oil.

Other sources of raw material harvested for this purpose are herring, and other herring-like fish, and so-called bottom trash fish and